

Roman Catholics in the state of New York, which was considerably strengthened by the publication of Maria Monk's pretended confessions; some convents and chapels were destroyed by fanatical mobs, and these circumstances, no doubt, induced the author to court popular prejudice, to which, when at its full height, in America, no appeal can be too gross.

A still more palpable blunder occurs in a subsequent page. After the emigrants have sailed, they are described as mutinying against Nephi, as the Spanish crews did against Columbus, but they released him when a tempest came on, as he was the only person capable of working the ship. He is then represented as saying,—

"And it came to pass after they had loosed me, behold, I took the compass, and it did work whither I desired it. And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord; and after I had prayed, the winds did cease, and the storm did cease, and there was a great calm."

The impostor was not aware that he was antedating the discovery of the needle's polarity by several centuries, and he speaks of the compass in such a way as to show that he was utterly ignorant of the nature of the implement. A Mormonite elder has unwittingly explained the probable source of this error; when pressed with this palpable mark of forgery, he unhesitatingly replied that the compass was mentioned in Scripture, quoting from the account of St. Paul's voyage, "We fetched a compass, [that is, took a circuitous course] and came to Rhegium." It would be fortunate if the misapprehensions of the sacred text, by such ignorant readers, were confined to a blunder so innocent as this whimsical misapprehension.

The history of the settlements of the emigrants in North and South America contains some romantic and some very puerile incidents; but, passing these by, we turn to the prophecies of Nephi, to show how cunningly they are framed to support the imposture. The prophet is represented as predicting not merely the long concealment and future discovery of the sacred books or plates, but also that the language in which they were written should be unintelligible to the learned, and should be interpreted by one whose only learning was derived from inspiration:—

"But behold, it shall come to pass that the Lord God shall say unto him to whom he shall deliver the book, take these words which are not sealed, and deliver them to another, that he may shew them unto the learned, saying, read this, I pray thee. And the learned shall say, bring hither the book, and I will read them: and now, because of the glory of the world, and to get gain, will they say this, and not for the glory of God. And the man shall say, I cannot bring the book, for it is sealed. Then shall the learned say, I cannot read it. Wherefore it shall come to pass, that the Lord God will deliver again the book and the words thereof to him that is not learned; and the man that is not learned, shall say, I am not learned; then shall the Lord God say unto him, the learned shall not read them, for they have rejected them, and I am able to do mine own work; wherefore, thou shalt read the words which I shall give unto thee. Touch not the things which are sealed, for I will bring them forth in mine own due time: for I will shew unto the children of men, that I am able to do mine own work."

In a similar strain the prophet enters into an anticipatory argument with those who shall declare that the Bible is the sole revelation of the Deity:—

"Thou fool, that shall say, a bible, we have got a bible, and we need no more bible. Have ye obtained a bible, save it were by the Jews? Know ye not that there are more nations than one? Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember those who are upon the isles of the sea; and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath; and I bring forth my word unto the children of men, yea, even upon all the

nations of the earth? Wherefore murmur ye, because that ye shall receive more of my word? Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another? Wherefore, I speak the same words unto one nation like unto another. And when the two nations shall run together, the testimony of the two nations shall run together also. And I do this that I may prove unto many, that I am the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever; and that I speak forth my words according to mine own pleasure. And because that I have spoken one word, ye need not suppose that I cannot speak another; for my work is not yet finished; neither shall it be, until the end of man; neither from that time henceforth and for ever."

The history of the pretended Israelites is continued in the books of Enos, Jarom, Zeniff, &c., and through them all, we find one signal proof not merely of imposture, but of the ignorance of the impostor, repeated with singular pertinacity. Every successive prophet predicts to the Nephites the future coming of Christ; the writer has fallen into the vulgar error of mistaking an epithet for a name; the word "Christ," as all educated persons know, is not a name, but a Greek title of office, signifying "The Anointed," being in fact a translation of the Hebrew word *Messiah*; it is true that in modern times, and by a corruption which is now become inveterate, the term is used by western Christians, as if it were a proper name, or at least an untranslatable designation, but this is a modern error, and it has been avoided by most of the oriental churches. Now, the use of a Greek term, at an age when the Greek language was unformed, and by a people with whom it was impossible for Greeks to have intercourse, and moreover whose native language was of such peculiar construction as not to be susceptible of foreign admixture, is a mark of forgery so obvious and decisive that it ought long since to have exposed the delusion. Unhappily, however, we are forced to conclude from the pamphlets before us, that the American Methodists, who first undertook to expose the Mormonites, were scarcely less ignorant than themselves.

A second Nephi takes up the history at a period cotemporary with the events recorded in the New Testament. It avers that our Lord exhibited himself to the Nephites after his resurrection, and the words attributed to him bear still more conclusive evidence of the ignorance of the impostors:—

"Behold I am Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I created the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them are. I was with the Father from the beginning. I am in the Father, and the Father in me; and in me hath the Father glorified his name. I came unto my own, and my own received me not. And the scriptures, concerning my coming, are fulfilled. And as many as have received me, to them have I given to become the Sons of God; and even so will I to as many as shall believe on my name, for behold, by me redemption cometh, and in me is the law of Moses fulfilled. I am the light and the life of the world. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."

In addition to the former blunder respecting the name "Christ," we have the name "Jesus," in its Greek form, and not as the Hebrews would have called it, "Joshua;" but we have furthermore the names of the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet given as a metaphorical description of continued existence to a nation that had never heard of the Greek language. It is quite clear that the writer mistook Alpha and Omega for some sacred and mystic sounds, to which particular sanctity was attached,—a blunder by no means confined to the Mormonites,—and wrote them down without perceiving that they were an evidence of forgery, so palpable as to be manifest to school-boys.

The change of colour in the descendants of

the emigrants is stated to have been a punishment for their sins, and the final sealing up of the sacred records before the arrival of the Europeans is attributed to the increasing wickedness of the people. The pretended revelation concludes with some ceremonial rules, principally relating to the necessity of total immersion in the sacrament of baptism.

Enough has now been said to show the nature and character of this extraordinary forgery. Had the success of the imposture been confined to America, we might have noticed its history briefly, as a strange example of the aberrations of the human mind; but it is making rapid progress in England, particularly in the manufacturing districts; and it is also spreading in Wales. Furthermore, its converts are not made from the lowest ranks; those sought and obtained by the Mormonite apostles are mechanics and tradesmen who have saved a little money, who are remarkable for their moral character, but who are exposed to delusion from having, as Archbishop Sharpe expressed it, "studied the Bible with an ill-balanced mind." We feel it therefore a duty to expose the origin of the imposture, and to give some particulars respecting its authors, which we trust will be of service in preventing the spread of the delusion.

From the testimony of eighty different persons residing in Wayne and Ontario counties, New York, it appears that Joseph Smith, junior, was originally a "Money-digger." It is a common belief in America that large sums of money were buried in the earth by the buccaners, and by persons compelled to fly from their homes during the Revolutionary wars. Of this belief many impostors have taken advantage, declaring that they can discover the treasure by spells and incantations. The success with which Smith practised these arts, pointed him out as a fit associate to Sidney Rigdon and Oliver Cowdery, who had by accident become possessed of the manuscripts which were made the foundation of the 'Book of Mormon.' It is of some importance to observe that there were two sets of imposture, originally distinct,—the pretended discovery of the metallic plates, devised by Smith and Martin Harris, and the pretended translation of these plates, published as the 'Book of Mormon,' which appears to have been suggested by Sidney Rigdon.

Smith, Harris, and some others, were known as the "Gold Bible Company," before the pretended discovery of the plates, and for some time after that event seem to have had no notion of founding a new religion. In the authentication of the pretended discovery, signed by seven witnesses, which Smith published, the witnesses only testify, "We have seen and *hefted* [lifted], and know of a surety that the said Smith hath got the plates of which we have spoken." Hence the original fraud appears to have been a scheme of pretended treasures and forged antiquities.

We shall soon see how this fraud was connected with the 'Book of Mormon.' A clergyman named Solomon Spaulding left the ministry and entered into business in Cherry Vale, New York, where he failed in the year 1809. The discovery of the antiquities of the "Mounds" occurred about the same time; and when he removed after his failure into the state of Ohio, he found much curiosity excited by these relics of extinct civilization. Long previous it had been a popular theory with certain speculative writers, that the aboriginal Americans were the descendants of the Ten Tribes; indeed the theory has still many advocates in the United States. Spaulding hoped by combining this theory with the recent discoveries to produce a novel, the sale of which would enable him to pay his debts. He resolved to call it 'The Manuscript Found,' and to present it to the world as an

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historical record of the first inhabitants of America. As he was a vain man, he frequently read portions of the work to his friends and neighbours. His brother, his partner, his wife, and six of his friends testify, "That they well remember many of the names and incidents mentioned in Spaulding's manuscript, and that they know them to be the same as those found in the 'Book of Mormon.'"

The manuscript was prepared for press, and in 1812 Spaulding took it to a printer named Lamdin, residing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: before any arrangement could be concluded, the author died; and as the MS. was of great extent, Lamdin was unwilling to risk his money on the speculation. He lent the MS. to Sidney Rigdon, who, on the death of Lamdin in 1826, joined with Smith in palming it on the world as a new revelation. The worthy associates rewrote and greatly altered the work; their additions to it can indeed be often traced by the clumsiness with which they are introduced, and among these additions we find prominent the promise, that the New Jerusalem should be founded in America, the command that the saints should have a community of goods, and the rule, that all admitted into the body should receive baptism by total immersion.

The history of the fraud is a proper introduction to the purposes for which it was designed. In addition to the 'Book of Mormon' the impostors have produced another work, called 'The Book of Doctrines and Covenants,' which they allow to be seen only by the initiated, and to be put into the hands only of those on whom they can depend. No copy of this work is to be procured in England, but we have been able to obtain some extracts taken by gentlemen in America. In this work the demand for money meets us every where. The following language is put into the mouth of the Supreme Being:—

"Let all the monies which can be spared, it mattereth not unto us whether it be little or much, be sent up into the land of Zion, unto those whom I have appointed to receive.... Let all those who have not families, who receive money, send it up to the bishop of Zion, or unto the bishop of Ohio, that it may be consecrated for the bringing forth of the revelations, and the printing thereof, and establishing Zion," sec. 17. "He that sendeth up treasures unto the land of Zion shall receive an inheritance in this world. And his work shall follow him. And also a reward in the world to come.... It is meet that my servant Joseph Smith, jun., should have a house built in which to live and translate. And again it is meet that my servant, Sidney Rigdon, should live as seemeth him good, inasmuch as he keepeth my commandments," sec. 64.

The following reveals some particulars respecting Oliver Cowdery, one of the three witnesses to the supernatural origin of the 'Book of Mormon':—

"Hearken unto me, with the Lord your God, for my servant Oliver Cowdery's sake. It is not wisdom in me that he should be intrusted with the commandments and the monies, which he shall carry up unto the land of Zion, except one go with him who is true and faithful. Wherefore I, the Lord, will that my servant John Whitmer shall go with my servant Oliver Cowdery," sec. 44.

In August 1831, the Mormons, or "Latter-day saints," commenced their settlements in Missouri. In about two years their numbers had considerably increased, when the other inhabitants of the State took up arms against them, and a sanguinary civil war raged for nearly five years. We have no inclination to enter into the details of the lawless outrages committed on both sides, or the frightful picture they give of American life in the frontier provinces. It will be sufficient to say that true bills for murder were found against the Mormonite leaders, and that many of them contrived to escape from prison. Among the fugitives we find the names of

several of those who are the most active apostles of the Mormonites in England, particularly Parley P. Pratt, the editor of the *Millennial Star* at Manchester. In the Mormonite appeal it is recorded:—

"A bill was found against Parley P. Pratt, Morris Phelps, and Luman Gibbs for murder, and also a man by the name of King Follett for robbery.... In the evening, when the jailer brought in their suppers, they walked out at the door, that is Parley P. Pratt, Morris Phelps, and King Follett; Luman Gibbs continued; the others were closely pursued, and Follett was retaken and carried back, but the other two effected their escape to the state of Illinois."

Since their expulsion from Missouri, the Mormonites have settled in Illinois, and founded three towns, the chief of which they call Nauvoo—a name which they have the hardihood to assert is derived from the Hebrew, and signifies Beautiful. They have sent missionaries into various parts of England to collect recruits; the deluded victims are persuaded to deposit their little stocks in the treasury of the sect, and are then sent over to the settlements on the Mississippi. They have been most successful in Preston, from whence no less than forty-four respectable persons, respectable at least in their class, have emigrated to the Mormonite colony within the last three weeks. This success may, in some degree, be attributed to the art by which the Mormonite leaders have connected themselves with the Temperance movement. In the 80th section of the 'Book of Doctrine,' the Temperance rules are strongly enjoined on the Mormonites, and hence they can present themselves to zealots in the cause as the only sect in which total abstinence is a matter of religious obligation. We find also that they are endeavouring to gain the Irvingites and Campbellites; for in a communication from Clithero it is stated,—“As soon as the converts were baptized and confirmed, they spoke with unknown tongues.” The last reports of the Mormonite Elders boast of increasing success, particularly in Staffordshire, Herefordshire, and Wales; and we have reason to fear that the boast is not wholly destitute of foundation.

Before closing this statement it is necessary to say a few words respecting the Mormonite hymns, for which they make a claim to divine inspiration, and which have really proved very efficient agents in their success. Greater baldness than these productions can scarcely be conceived; they are devoid of grammar, sense, or rhyme; and yet they are compared by the deluded Mormonites to the Psalms of David. One specimen will suffice. It forms part of a contrast between the first and second advent of the Messiah:—

The first was persecuted
And into Egypt fled,—
A pilgrim and a stranger
Not where to lay his head.

The second at his temple
Will suddenly appear,
And all his saints come with him
To reign a thousand year.

The first a man of sorrows,
Rejected by his own;
And Israel left in blindness
To wander forth forlorn.

The second brings deliverance,
They crown him as their king,
They own him as their Saviour
And join his praise to sing.

Human patience can copy no more. Before concluding, however, we must call the attention of those who are engaged in resisting the progress of this heresy, to the plain internal evidences of forgery which we have shown in the 'Book of Mormon.' The imposture is artfully framed to catch those who are familiar with the language and style of our authorized version, but know nothing of the original; we see that its authors have adopted the most vulgar errors, but we may also see that they would not have

adopted them, had not such errors been common. A very little general instruction would have saved most of the victims of this delusion; and assuredly nothing but a vast extent of popular ignorance can account for the success of such an imposture here, at the time when it had notoriously begun to fail in America.

Pilgrimages to the Spas in Pursuit of Health and Recreation, &c. By James Johnson, M.D. S. Highley.

THERE is apparently no touching the Spas with safety; and it is really surprising that Dr. Johnson, a veteran in literature, should have ventured on the ticklish theme. The attempt was probably an afterthought. From the title-page, we gather that recreation was a leading motive of the journey; and we may thence infer that it was considered as a holiday trip, designedly undertaken to suspend the toils of professional life. Under that circumstance, it is not improbable that the Doctor kept his note-book with less than professional discretion; regulating its contents, as he did his day's journey, more according to the whim of the moment, than under the guidance of ulterior views:—in other words, that he set down in his tablets whatever suggested itself, the momentary inspirations of a discursive, imaginative, and not very logical mind. It was not possible, indeed, for one habituated to medical research, thus coming in contact with medical matters at every turn, not to have largely abounded on that theme, but there is evidence both in the quantity of loose and disconnected remarks on things in general, and in the careless way in which even medical opinions are thrown out, that the sweets of travel were not alloyed by the notion of "inditing a good matter" for the service of the profession. As such a record of transitory impressions, the notes bear evidence of the acquirements which enter even into the amusements of a philosophic mind, and there was probably nothing derogatory to professional big-wiggism in the entries. But the question of publication is another consideration; and we freely confess, that the volume before us contains more bald disjointed chat in its general contents, and less firmness and decision in its philosophic and medical portions, than we had a right to expect from Dr. Johnson. The Doctor takes credit for the condensed form of his publication, which, as he says, might have "been easily expanded into two, or even three goodly, or at least costly octavos." "For this relief," as the sentry says in Hamlet, "much thanks:" for the practice (to continue our quotation from the same play) "is a custom more honoured in the breach, than the observance;" still we must regret that the abbreviating process was not extended beyond the typography, and that the volume was not rendered more portable by a necessary curtailment of matter. In the principal or professional part of his work, the Doctor tells us,—

"I have endeavoured to collect all the information in my power, and, in the exercise of my judgment, to sift the grain from the chaff, thus to steer clear of the extremes of exaggeration and scepticism. There has been too much of the former abroad, and too much of the latter at home. Holding myself perfectly free from all obligation to subserve local interests on one side of the channel, or foster national prejudices on the other, I have spoken my mind, with equal fearlessness and, I hope, impartiality."

But we must add, that the Doctor, in executing this self-set task, has been happier in his censures on the extravagances of his predecessors, than in the summing up of his own experiences. His own mind seems to have been in a state of occasional vacillation, sometimes crediting, and sometimes doubting the efficacy of the Spas; so that the general impression left on our own minds is that sort of distrust, which arises from the

absence of any distinct idea on the subject. What, for instance, can any one accustomed to close reasoning, make of the following estimate of the efficacy of the Baths of Peffers?—

"The waters of Peffers have neither taste, smell, nor colour. They will keep for ten years, without depositing a sediment, or losing their transparency. In their chemical composition, they have hitherto shewn but few ingredients; and those of the simpler saline substances, common to most mineral springs. It does not follow, however, that they contain no active materials, because chemistry is not able to detect them. Powerful agents may be diffused in waters, and which are incapable of analysis, or destructible by the process employed for that purpose. The only sure test is experience of their effects on the human body. It is not probable that the Baths of Peffers would have attracted such multitudes of invalids, annually, from Switzerland, Germany, and Italy; and that for six centuries, if their remedial agency had been null or imaginary. Their visitors are not of that fashionable class, who run to watering-places for pleasure rather than for health—or, to dispel the vapours of the town by the pure air of the coast or the country. Yet, as human nature is essentially the same in all ranks of society, I have no doubt that much of the fame acquired by the Baths of Peffers, has been owing to the auxiliary influence of air, locality, change of scene, moral impressions, and the peculiar mode of using the waters. Their temperature—100° of Fahr.—certain physical phenomena which they evince, and the nature of the diseases which they are reported to cure, leave little doubt in my mind that their merits, though overrated, like those of all other mineral springs, are very considerable. * * As the baths belong to the neighbouring Convent of Peffers, and, as the holy fathers afford not only spiritual consolation to the patients, but medical assistance in directing the means of cure, there is every reason to believe, or, at least, to hope, that the moral, or rather divine influence of Religion co-operates with mere physical agency, in removing disease and restoring health. * * The baths are arched with stone—the window to each is small, admitting little light, and less air:—and, as the doors are kept shut, except when the bathers are entering or retiring, the whole space not occupied by water, is full of a dense vapour, as hot as the Thermae themselves. The very walls of the baths are warm, and always dripping with moisture. Such are the Sudatoria in which the German, Swiss, and Italian invalids lie daily, from two, to six, eight, ten—and sometimes sixteen hours! The whole exterior of the body is thus soaked, softened—parboiled; while the interior is drenched by large quantities swallowed by the mouth—the patient, all this while, breathing the dense vapour that hovers over the baths. The waters of Peffers, therefore, inhaled and imbibed, exhaled and absorbed, for so many hours daily, must permeate every vessel, penetrate every gland, and percolate through every pore of the body. So singular a process of human maceration in one of Nature's cauldrons, conducted with German patience and German enthusiasm, must, I think, relax many a rigid muscle—unbend many a contracted joint—soothe many an aching nerve—clear many an unsightly surface—resolve many an indurated gland—open many an obstructed passage—and restore many a suspended function. The fervid and detergent streams of the Peffers, in fact, are actually turned, daily and hourly, through the Augean stable of the human constitution, and made to rout out a host of maladies indomitable by the prescriptions of the most sage physicians. The fable of Medea's revival of youthful vigour in wasted limbs is very nearly realized in the mountains of the Grisons, and in the savage ravine of the Tamina. Lepers are here purified—the lame commit their crutches to the flames—the tumid throat and scrofulous neck are reduced to symmetrical dimensions—and sleep revisits the victim of rheumatic pains and neuralgic tortures."

Here we have the absence of medical ingredients against the baths,—the same point mystified,—then experience urged in behalf of their efficacy,—then a reference to air, exercise, and other extrinsic causes, in discount of the value of the waters,—then temperature is pronounced to be favourable,—then comes the assistance they

derive from religion,—lastly, the most positive opinion is given as to their *modus operandi*, videlicet, by a mechanical ablation of every particle of the body, and the strongest testimony is advanced as to the cures performed. Now though there may be some truth in each of these statements, though the journey, the jaunting, the exhortations of the priests, and above all the parboiling, may each contribute its impression on the bather, yet do they at the same time detract in their aggregate from that clearness of statement, and of reasoning, which should distinguish a professional writer. We say nothing of the washerwoman notion of a material sordes, and of the clearing out of the veins, as a harbour is deepened by a backwater discharge.

We have marked by italics one passage, as containing a very perfect specimen of the figure called a *non sequitur*. We are aware that it lies rather in the awkward collocation of words than a confusion of ideas; but it strongly marks a carelessness in the construction of opinions, which is indeed the pervading sin of the work. At a few pages distance, we meet the following:—"When the process is likely to prove favourable, there is frequently observed on the surface of the water a kind of viscid scum, the supposed morbid matter thrown off the body!" The Doctor must be much changed from what we have long known him, if he believe in any connexion between the appearance of this matter, and the favourable result; or considers it as derived from a morbid origin. He has evidently derived the information from hearsay; and forgotten to stigmatize it as a piece of transcendental nonsense.

How different is this from the philosophy of the following passage:—

"The German physicians appear to be convinced that mineral springs are not merely waters impregnated with various mineral and gaseous matters, with or without increase of temperature; but that they are possessed of *vitality*—living beings, in fact, whose life is transfused into the human organism, thereby communicating energy to the solids, and purity to the fluids of our bodies—in other words, correcting and expelling disease and restoring health! Even the venerable Ailbert was smitten with this German transcendentalism, and he observes of the Aix waters—'these springs, under the empire of Nature, most undoubtedly enjoy a species of *vitality* (*une sorte de vitalité*) in common with other living bodies on this globe. They are animated by a multitude of principles, which will long, perhaps for ever, elude the most laborious researches of chemistry.' * * This *vitality* hypothesis did not escape the notice of my friend Dr. Granville, who appears, however, to have thought it rather too large for John Bull to swallow, without some qualification. He therefore substituted '*caloricity*' for '*vitality*,' in order that so good an idea might not be lost—and that some *mysterious* agency might aid the natural operation of the German spas. This mode of explaining the *ignotum* by the *ignotus* is, no doubt, very ingenious; but, for my own part, I shall at once acknowledge my ignorance, not only of the manner in which mineral waters are formed in the bowels of the earth, but of their *specific* action (if any) on the human frame."

The Pilgrimages, coming as they do after the author's "friend Dr. Granville," must be considered in the whole, as a vast improvement. Notwithstanding some occasional flummery, Dr. Johnson evidently thinks little of Granville's powers as an observer, and, indeed, gives him an occasional *tap*, as severe as it is merited. Our estimate, indeed, has reference rather to our previous expectations from the writer, than to a comparison with the productions of his predecessors. There is one part in which Dr. Johnson's additions to the previous information possessed by the public, will do good service: we mean his warnings against a hasty and ill-advised employment of Spa re-

medies, and the persistence in their use under the reaction called the *bad sturm*, or *crisis*, a persistence which is recommended by the local doctors:—

"I may now make a few cautionary remarks on the dangers of bathing and drinking the waters of Ems, and indeed of mineral waters (thermal) in general—a subject little touched upon by writers at the spas themselves. I cannot too often or too strongly warn every one against warm baths, who have the slightest degree of local chronic inflammation going on in any of the organs of the body, as evinced by white tongue, dryness of skin, accelerated pulse, evening thirst, or scanty action of the kidneys. The exciting mineral waters, taken internally or externally, will be almost certain to raise the chronic into a subacute, or even acute inflammation, with a corresponding grade of constitutional irritation. Of this I have seen many instances, both at home and abroad. The existence of such conditions should be carefully ascertained before the spa is introduced; and proper means taken to remove all traces of inflammation. But even where there is no proof of any inflammatory action, the state of plethora or general fullness of the vessels renders warm bathing hazardous. In all, or almost all organic diseases of internal parts, especially of the heart, brain, or lungs, the warm bath is to be eschewed. The tide of the circulation carried to the surface by the hot bath, must have a subsequent recoil, and then the weakened organ may suffer. Besides, the warm, and still more, the hot bath, excites the heart and great vessels into increased activity for the time, and the blood is carried with greater force towards the brain, endangering congestion there. But what are the admonitory symptoms or phenomena by which the patient may judge, when danger is approaching? The spa doctor is not always at hand, in these emergencies. He is often too much employed at such times. When giddiness, sleepiness, chilliness, confusion of thought, weariness, head-ache, pains in the limbs, unusual sounds in the ears, sparks before the eyes, loss of appetite, depression after food, feverishness, thirst, languor, depression of spirits, inability to sleep at the usual hour, malaise, or, in fact, any uncomfortable feeling, not previously felt, occurs soon after drinking the waters, and especially after bathing, and if these, or any of these recur after the second or third day, let the waters be suspended till advice is taken. I am well aware that the spa-doctors will say—'oh these are critical, or even favourable symptoms, demonstrating the efficiency of the spring! All I say is—*Beware!* you are standing on a precipice!"

This notion of a salutary crisis, if not denied, is indirectly combated in more than one passage:

"On the other hand," says Professor Heim, where the malady is obstinate, there is a greater struggle in the constitution, attended with considerable fever, disorder of the secretions, irritation of the nervous system, full pulse, restless nights, distressing dreams, loss of appetite, dry hot skin, occasional hemorrhoidal discharges, purging, gouty attacks, cutaneous eruptions, &c., which precede a restoration to health. These are trials which require the fortitude of the patient, and the vigilance of the physician. It is not to be wondered at that, when they occur in the stranger, and especially in the English invalid, who has little confidence in the foreign practitioner, and finds himself ill in a secluded valley like that of Wildbad, great alarm should be produced, and much prejudice raised against the baths and waters of the place. The worst of it is, that a similar train of disorders may arise from an injudicious use of the baths, and where no salutary crisis is the result—

Notre mal s'empoisonne
Du secours, qu'on lui donne!

"These are circumstances which ought to be pointed out to our countrymen and women, who are too often led to distant mineral waters and baths by flowery descriptions and miraculous cures, without any warning as to the consequences that may ensue—whether salutary or dangerous. The concealment of this spa or bath fever is anything but beneficial either to the waters or the water-drinkers. It deceives the one and injures the reputation of the other. The local physicians of these mineral springs never omit to point out the consequences of bathing in, and

drinking to several quarts of spa-giers to To Eng mulated, tions, the that man such warn our own p cumstance otherwise risk. Consider must ack cult for its from so w the gossip humoured ceptable, slip-slop work will many pass of energe of remark teeth of th bates, in they are there is m "The h harmony, others. B temperance ether, to th tion of the of those p wonders fo rebel— and long sent often of th stomach t pains and vain hope mill. The stomach b earnest. Who call Germans— sometimes offensive to The stomac the mouth still farther the the v become ir tained dev city and t sidered as arguments stubborn f many and the grave furieth pa offices, 't greater in rence will —since th climate of 'horrid' punitive m age, at ho the propo exhibiting equal mas England. the age of German, a twelve, and This, g truth and the case discount enough i reference

drinking the waters, as I have already shown by several quotations; and it is highly desirable that all *qua-goers* should be aware of them."

To English constitutions, habitually over stimulated, and especially liable to visceral congestions, the danger is eminent, and we doubt not that many have fallen victims to inattention to such warnings as the Doctor has held forth. For our own part, we doubt whether under any circumstances, such symptoms can be regarded otherwise than as attended with formidable risk.

Considered as a mere book of travels, we must acknowledge that it would have been difficult for its author to have extracted much novelty from so well worked a subject. To those, to whom the gossipings on all things discussible of a good-humoured and well-informed traveller be acceptable, though weakened by much occasional slip-slop as well of thought as of expression, the work will be welcome; and it also contains many passages, both of ingenious speculation and of energetic description. Among other subjects of remark, the Doctor has fallen foul of the bad teeth of the Germans, which he fancifully attributes, in part, to the greater quantity of work they are made to perform. In the following there is more of fact than of fancy:—

"The human frame is a congeries of organs, all in harmony, when in health, and each assisting the others. But when we deviate from simplicity and temperance, these same organs quarrel with each other, to the detriment, and sometimes to the destruction of the whole constitution. The stomach is one of those patient and willing organs that will work wonders for years and years; but at length it will rebel—and even retaliate. The teeth, which have long sent down immoderate quantities of food, too often of the most abominable composition, for the stomach to grind over again, become visited with pains and penalties by the offended organ, under the vain hope that less work will be done in the upper mill. The warning is unheeded; and then the stomach begins the process of demolition in good earnest. It is in this state of, what the geologists would call 'transition,' that we see the teeth of the Germans—and it must be confessed, of the English sometimes also—in a state disagreeable to the eye, offensive to the nose, and injurious to the health. The stomach, which has inflicted this punishment on the mouth, so far from being benefitted thereby, is still further injured by the failure of mastication; and then the various organs and functions of the body become involved in the consequences of long-continued deviations from the paths of Nature, simplicity and temperance! If this penalty be still considered as imaginary, I shall adduce more cogent arguments. The bills of mortality contain very sad-born facts. Let us take the two capitals of Germany and England—Vienna and London. In the former one twenty-fourth of the population goes to the grave annually:—in the latter (London) one-fortieth part only. In the language of the insurance offices, 'the value of life is more than one-third greater in London than in Vienna.' Now this difference will surely not be attributed to climate merely—since the continentals themselves anathematize the climate of England, and the fogs of London, as most 'horrid.' Here then we have some clue to the comparative number of teeth in individuals of the same age, at home and abroad. We shall probably find the proportion of 24 to 40 (the ratio of mortality) as exhibiting a fair estimate of the number of teeth in equal masses of the population in Germany and England. Thus, for example, if the Englishman, at the age of 50, have twenty teeth in his head, the German, at the same period of life, will have only twelve, and so on."

This, generally speaking, we believe to be the truth and the whole truth of the matter: but in the case of the Germans, we must make a large discount for the abuse of tobacco, which is quite enough to explain the phenomenon, without reference to diet.

The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore, collected by Himself. Vols. V. & VI. Longmans.

THERE is less in the new introductions to these volumes than we had hoped to find there. The fifth Preface opens with a word or two concerning song-writing, in which Mr. Moore expresses his surprise at the paucity of the examples our literature affords of poets bringing to the practice of their art, that potent aid, as far as versification is concerned, which musical knowledge would give them—and he specifies since Milton's days, Mr. Bowles and Mr. Crowe (the author of 'Lewesden Hill'), as the only established authors by whom the two arts have been conjointly understood and exercised. Lord Byron, however, has been seen to weep when his favourite melodies were performed; and Mr. Moore himself pleasantly describes how he witnessed Sir Walter Scott in "his true sphere of musical enjoyment" when *timing* the burden to 'Hey tuttie tattie,' sung at the Abbotsford supper-table, by jovial Sir Adam Ferguson. It would lead us "out of the record" here to point out the reasons why the dormant musical tendencies which must, we firmly believe, be possessed by every true poet—we dare almost go a step further, and say by every one endowed with a perception of the Beautiful—have been sparingly matured, so as to produce any result. The history of English society and of English opinion, must both be ransacked for the purpose; and our readers would have little patience to stand by and see it done, when waiting to hear what revelations their favourite lyrist has to make concerning the origin of the 'Summer Fête,' the 'Evenings in Greece,' and the first three tales of 'Lalla Rookh,' all of which the volumes before us contain. Truly these lie as it were in a nut-shell. Small, however, as is their compass, the author has contrived to pack away among them the essence of many "marvellous proper" homages and compliments he has received from divers distinguished personages. This offering up of incense to his own self is more agreeable to its object than it can be to the public: and, in preference to the enthusiasm of the public at Edinburgh, and to the Marquis P—lm—a's well-turned compliment upon 'The Epicurean,' the day after it came out—we will draw upon the fifth volume, for some half-a-dozen of the pages headed "Unpublished Songs, *et cetera*." These, from Mr. Moore's hand, can never fail to be welcome:

*There's Something Strange.
(A RUSSO SONG.)*

There's something strange, I know not what,
Come o'er me
Some phantom I've for ever got
Before me.
I look on high, and in the sky
Tis shining;
On earth, its light with all things bright
Seems twining.
In vain I try this goblin's spells
To sever:
Go where I will, it round me dwells
For ever.
And then what tricks by day and night
It plays me,
In ev'ry shape the wicked sprite
Waylays me.
Sometimes like two bright eyes of blue
Tis glancing;
Sometimes like feet, in slippers neat,
Comes dancing.
By whispers round of every sort
I'm haunted.
Never was mortal man, in short,
So haunted.

When Love, who ruled.

When Love, who ruled as Admiral o'er
His rosy mother's isles of light,
Was cruising off the Paphian shore,
A sail at sunset hove in sight.
"A chase, a chase! my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.
Aloft the winged sailors sprang,
And, swarming up the mast like bees,
The snow-white sails expanding flung,
Like broad pennants to the breeze.
"Yo ho, yo ho, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

The chase was o'er—the bark was caught,
The winged crew her freight explored;
And found 'twas just as Love had thought,
For all was contraband aboard.
"A prize, a prize, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Safe stow'd in many a package there,
And label'd d'lyly o'er, as "Glass,"
Were lots of all the illegal ware,
Love's Custom-House forbids to pass.
"O'erhaul, o'erhaul, my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

False curls they found, of every hue,
With rosy blushes ready made;
And teeth of ivory, good as now,
For veterans in the smiling trade.
"Ho ho, ho ho, my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Mock sighs, too,—kept in bags for use,
Like breezes bought of Lapland seers,—
Lay ready here to be let loose,
When wanted, in young spinsters' ears.
"Ha ha, ha ha, my Cupids all,"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

False papers next on board were found,
Sham invoices of flames and darts,
Professedly for Paphos bound,
But meant for Hymen's golden marts.
"For shame, for shame, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Nay, still to every fraud awake,
Those pirates all Love's signals knew,
And hoisted off his flag, to make
Rich wards and heiresses *brag-de*.
"A foe, a foe, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

"This must not be," the boy exclaims,
"In vain I rule the Paphian seas,
If Love's and Beauty's sovereign names
Are lent to cover frauds like these.
Prepare, prepare, my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

Each Cupid stood with lighted match—
A broadside struck the smuggling foe,
And swept the little unhallow'd batch
Of falsehood to the depths below.
"Huzza, huzza! my Cupids all!"
Said Love, the little Admiral.

The treacherous "*et cetera*" at the top of each of these precious pages warns us to forbear: the extracts given, may have possibly already been set and sung.

The preface to the sixth volume contains full particulars of the sale and purchase of 'Lalla Rookh,'—and the agreement of its publishers, at the late Mr. Perry's instance, to give the magnificent sum of three thousand guineas for the copyright of a poem, *not a line of which was written!* How far the result justified the speculation, every corner of the civilized world has told long ago: Kings and Queens have amused themselves by enacting the parts of Feramor and the Tulip Cheek, and by having the whole splendid spectacle for which the poems offer such unrivalled scope, paraded at their royal state festivals: and—a yet more precious testimony to any true poet!—the Eastern stories of an Irishman have made their way to the shores of the Caspian, and been sung, as Luttrell hath it,—

By moonlight, in the Persian tongue,
Along the streets of Ispahan.

An earlier fact in the history of 'Lalla Rookh' is well worth adverting to, in these days of flimsy construction and disdain of labour on the part of those presenting themselves to the public. This is the amount of patient care and repeated experiment brought to bear upon his task by Mr. Moore, not only while reading for his subject, but while giving scope to his creative fancy.

"For a long time, therefore, after the agreement had been concluded, though generally at work with a view to this task, I made but very little real progress in it; and I have still by me the beginnings of several stories, continued, some of them, to the length of three or four hundred lines, which, after in vain endeavouring to mould them into shape, I threw aside, like the tale of Cambuscan, 'left half-told.' One of these stories, entitled *The Peri's Daughter*, was meant to relate the loves of a nymph of this aerial extraction with a youth of mortal race, the rightful Prince of Ormuz, who had been, from his infancy, brought up, in seclusion, on the banks of the river Amou, by an aged guardian named Mohassan. * * In another of these inchoate fragments, a proud female saint, named Banou, plays a principal

part; and her progress through the streets of Cufa, on the night of a great illuminated festival, I find thus described:—

It was a scene of mirth that drew
A smile from ev'n the Saint Banou,
As, through the hush'd, admiring throng,
She went with stately steps along,
And counted o'er, that all might see,
The rubies of her rosary.
But none might see the worldly smile
That lurk'd beneath her veil, the while:—
Alas forbid! for, who would wait
Her blessing at the temple's gate,—
What holy man would ever run
To kiss the ground she knelt upon,
If once, by luckless chance, he knew
She look'd and smil'd as others do.
Her hands were join'd, and from each wrist
By threads of pearl and golden twist
Hung relics of the saints of yore,
And scraps of talismanic lore,—
Charms for the old, the sick, the frail,
Some made for use, and all for sale.
On either side, the crowd withdrew,
To let the Saint pass proudly through;
While turban'd heads, of every hue,
Green, white, and crimson, bow'd around,
And gay tiaras touch'd the ground,—
As tulip-bells, when o'er their beds
The musk-wind passes, bend their heads.
Nay, some there were, among the crowd
Of Moslem heads that round her bow'd,
So fill'd with zeal, by many a draught
Of Shiraz wine profanely quaff'd,
That, sinking low in reverence then,
They never rose till morn again.

There are yet two more of these unfinished sketches, one of which extends to a much greater length than I was aware of; and, as far as I can judge from a hasty renewal of my acquaintance with it, is not incapable of being yet turned to account. In only one of these unfinished sketches, the tale of The Peri's Daughter, had I yet ventured to invoke that most home-felt of all my inspirations, which has lent to the story of The Fire-worshippers its main attraction and interest. * * In none of the other fragments do I find any trace of this sort of feeling, either in the subject or the personages of the intended story; and this was the reason, doubtless, though hardly known, at the time, to myself, that, finding my subjects so slow in kindling my own sympathies, I began to despair of their ever touching the hearts of others; and felt often inclined to say,

Oh no, I have no voice or hand
For such a song, in such a land.

Had this series of disheartening experiments been carried on much further, I must have thrown aside the work in despair. But, at last, fortunately, as it proved, the thought occurred to me of founding a story on the fierce struggle so long maintained between the Ghebers, or ancient Fire-worshippers of Persia, and their haughty Moslem masters. From that moment, a new and deep interest in my whole task took possession of me. The cause of tolerance was again my inspiring theme; and the spirit that had spoken in the melodies of Ireland soon found itself at home in the East.

Much is it to be desired that this fragment of literary history might be adopted as a profitable example by our younger aspirants.

Society in India. By an Indian Officer. 2 vols. Colburn.

This ought rather to have been called a Novel with Sketches of Society. The sketches, however, are the best part of the work—the characters are drawn with vigour and truth, broadly distinguished, but without caricature—the Dyke Kerrs, the Joneses, Heauton, Bentley and others, are all of the east eastern, and could have flourished nowhere else. Truth of effect is indeed characteristic of the writer, and he has throughout avoided the very common error of either over or under colouring his picture of life in the east. The story is hardly worth unravelling; but just to intimate to novel readers the entertainment provided for them, we will observe that the heroine, Helen, is a late importation from Europe—a prize in the marriage market—bid for by many, and some lakhs of rupees offered, but who accepts a young civilian, Mr. Tanfylde. Tanfylde, however, had unfortunately, after the too prevalent eastern fashion, attached himself to an Indian girl; and his resolution to break off

this connexion will enable us to introduce the reader into the interior of a native dwelling:—

"A tap and demand on open caused a wooden bar to be withdrawn, and the chokeedar, spear in hand, admitted his master into a covered porch about twelve feet square. A pair of sleek mouse-coloured Nagoree bullocks, their broad placid foreheads and fat sides marked with circles and the trident of Shiva in red ochre, their horns painted green, with gilded tips, were lazily munching their allowance of chaff and trodden straw, and seemed disposed to receive the intruder with levelled horns and lowered heads; but their driver, who sprang hastily from a charpae on which he was lounging, by applying a few words, in which 'baba' and 'beta' alone were distinguishable, and flourishing a three-tailed scourge, speedily reduced the placable beasts to order, and Tanfylde moved safely by them to the inner gate, where, on the summons of the chokeedar, a small wicket flew open and immediately closed behind him. The courtyard in which he now stood might be fifty feet square in the clear; it was enclosed on one side by the entrance-gates and a wall; on the other three, by low corridors on wooden pillars, leading to the sleeping and other apartments of the family. In one of these verandas stood a gaudy rath of two canopies, in all the glory of scarlet and blue broad-cloth and pinnacles of burnished brass, while peacocks and horses and flat-headed naks of the same metal studded the wheels, pole, yoke, and every visible part that was not covered with polished lac-sealing wax—of every hue of the rainbow. In the centre of the area was a small stone reservoir of clear water, planted round with stiff yellow mary-golds. * * He now pushed aside a painted curtain that hung before the principal door in the corridor, and entered a small but neat square room, stuccoed with fine marble plaster. It was occupied by a large low cot or charpae: the legs were scarcely nine inches in length, but were raised above the ground by massy cylindrical blocks of wood on which they rested in brass cups, filled with water, to prevent the ascent of noisome or venomous insects from the floor; the head-rail, feet, and supporters were neatly carved, gilded, and painted, after the most approved fashion of Bareilly; upon it was spread a snowy sheet, confined at the four corners by silken crimson cords with long ends, and tassels of gold and silver tinsel, and in the middle were arranged four or five of the large pillows to which the natives of Hindoostan assign each distinctive office and appellation. There was the sirhanna, broad pillow for the head; the pyrama, a round bolster, to sustain the knees and feet; the gao tukiya, to support the back and shoulder in a sitting posture; the gul tukiya for neck and throat, and tukenas innumerable; smaller cushions of various degrees of softness and size, luxurious appliances for a hot or restless night. The occupant of the couch was worthy of the elaborate comforts it proffered. She was a slim fair girl, with a peachy hue upon her rich olive cheek, and apparently about sixteen. She wore a pair of loosely-flowing trousers of crimson and gold brocade, her vest was of white muslin bordered with a deep sunja of azure satin, and flowing from the bosom half way nearly to the knee; her hair was dressed in twenty or more plaits, and in each her attendant was weaving a single white jasmine; garlands of which flower were lying profusely around, being, although somewhat overpowering to European nerves, an universal favourite with the girls of Hindoostan. Her forehead, nose, neck, and arms were decked with a profusion of massy gold ornaments of fanciful workmanship, and around her ancles and on the toes of her bare little feet were chains and rings of silver, her superstition not allowing her to deprecate the more precious metal to adorn such ignoble members. The artificial black fringe to the eye, the pink tinge to the fingers and feet, were not omitted; and though no 'gem's flashed on her little hand,' yet the arsee, with its little circular mirror, was not wanting on her thumb, in which to gratify her vanity by admiring, or her taste in arranging her varied charms of dress and person. At the foot of the bed lay her embroidered slippers with high red heels and curved points, and in a recess in the wall stood a small but exquisite silver kullian, exhaling the essence of conserve of roses, apples, and pomegranates, combined with the rarest tobacco of Persia. Near this young person lay an ample veil

of rose-coloured gauze, deeply fringed with broad silver tissue, the produce of a Benares' loom, and on a smaller charpae, similar to her own, there slept, under a light frame lined with mosquito gauze, an infant babe of five weeks, carefully fanned by its attendant nurse."

Mother and child must now be hurried away—and the unhappy girl is soon after inveigled into a marriage with a police darogha at a distant station, who, in the progress of the story, is convicted of murder, and sentenced to death: when the poor Indian girl is persuaded to throw herself at the feet of Helen, the step-daughter of the judge, and solicit her intercession. The consequence of this interview, and the denouement of the tale, may be easily conjectured.

As a further specimen of the style of the work, we will give a picture of eastern scenery sketched in June:—

"This season of the year, subject to extreme heat in upper India, is, nevertheless, in Bengal and Behar moderately cool, and not unpleasant for travelling. The stages are convenient, and though the nights be short, it seldom happens that the journey need be resumed before sunset, or continued much beyond sunrise. The showers are sufficient to produce an agreeable temperature, while they are too gentle to swell, as yet, the torrents that so continually intersect the upper road; and any little annoyance from passing showers is amply compensated by the freedom from dust, clouds of which are raised by the shuffling feet of the bearers in the dry season. In other respects this is an interesting time of year for the novice: Nature appears in her richest livery, the teak clad in a profusion of white blossoms not inaptly recalling in leaf and flower the noble holly-hedge of home—the kudum, sacred to Krishna, the Cupid of Hind, its golden-coloured globular blossoms, with their faint yet pleasing perfume thickly studded on every cluster of its broad bay-leaves—an orange in bloom and beauty with the stature of a forest tree—the umultas, a gigantic laburnum, scattering a shower of golden tresses to every breeze—the stately banian covered with its small fig, giving food and shelter to a host of parrots, flycatchers, and pert little ground-squirrels in their pied coats of soft fur—the different shades of peepul trees, some with the pale pink leafings just peeping forth on the spreading boughs, others, more precocious, already arrayed in a full suit of cool green of every variety of that grateful hue, and twittering their every spray as it were the pattering of a summer shower—or bamboos in full leaf of every height and growth, now standing in stiff clumps on the edge of a steep ravine, now waving their delicate tracery aloft in graceful beauty."

We must now give 'Society in India' in "juwab."

The French Stage, and the French People, as illustrated in the Memoirs of M. Fleury. Edited by Theodore Hook, Esq., F.S.A. 2 vols. Colburn.

WHEN we were, last week, offering a formula for the construction of dramatic memoirs and reminiscences, we referred merely to the home manufacture; for Dolly's lineal successor, who presides over the beef-steaks and porter of our London merchants, is not more thoroughly distinct from the high-flown functionary, who imagines the *salmi* and tempers the *purée* for Ve-four, than the Memoirs of our own Messrs. A. B. C., &c. to the end of the dramatic alphabet, from these confessions and adventures of "Fleury-fleury" to which a popular novelist stands god-father. His sponsorship, however, merely confines itself to a few well-worn Hook-isms in the notes, and to an occasional "Fie!" or "Oh M. Fleury!" when the sprightly memorialist overpasses, what the editor conceives to be the bounds which English prudence demands. Very gratuitous are these twinges of reproach. Few will open this book to receive their first impressions of Parisian life and morals from its pages: and the uplifted hand is notoriously the most efficient of finger-

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posts. We wish Mr. Hook would, in preference, have taken some editorial order with the printers. The spelling is shamefully incorrect—Mouvel for Monvel, Contat for Contat, Raucourt for Raucourt, and like blunders, being repeated again and again.

Mr. Hook's share in the publication being thus easily despatched, the gay old French actor has leave to make his best bow, and to seat himself in the arm chair opposite ours, for an hour's gossip. There is something of Eracles' vein in his very entry, which warrants his being a countryman of Condé as well as of De Grammont. We stumble in his prefatory introduction upon the unfortunate Spanish Princes, who were kept in honourable confinement at Valençay, and a conspiracy, in which the author was supposed to be implicated as their assistant, and which had well nigh deprived the world of these memoirs, owing to a seizure of M. Fleury's papers by the police. The same magniloquent tone prevails throughout. A remarkable event occurred in the spring of 1757, at the court of Stanislas Leezinska—the performance of 'Le Glorieux' at Nancy—where "a little rosy black-eyed boy delivered the poetry of Destouches with a natural air and correct accentuation"—bowed when the ex-king, for good luck, blessed a sneeze of his, and, without waiting to be asked, saluted Madame de Bouffiers, the ex-king's mistress! This wonderful passage introduces the author, who was the son of the Nancy manager—and prepares us for the tone of his life and conversation. The monarch patronized the audacious strippling, and introduced him to "all the persons of rank and fashion who frequented the court of Luneville and Cammercy;"—and the strippling, thoroughly appreciating the distinction, took a distaste to the lively characters, which, as sub-comedian of a provincial company, fell to his lot—loved to parade himself in a court dress before a mirror—and was overheard, in fancy, talking to my "dear Stanislas!" Who could not discern in such child (borrowing Wordsworth's figure) the father of the elegant comedian? There was a touch of the picaresque, however, in Fleury's composition, not in the least disadvantageous to his stage-genuineness as a fine gentleman—which, in his early days, broke out sometimes too strongly to be repressed. His sister, Felicité, had married a Vicomte, who, for love of her, left his regiment, laid by his title, and took to acting and the name of Sainville. They made a passing visit to Geneva; and were bidden to Ferney by Voltaire, who never let pass any one who had displayed "considerable talent in personating his heroines":—

"We stayed about a fortnight at Ferney, and during that time were overwhelmed with kindness and attention by the great philosopher. For my part, I had my share of censure as well as of praise, and both had their influence on my subsequent success. I have still present in imagination that satirical countenance, every wrinkle of which seemed to laugh the whole world to scorn. Voltaire's wig was a memorable curiosity. I had for some time sacrilegiously premeditated an attack on this strange sanctuary of genius; and I made an attempt to put my design into execution one morning when the philosopher sallied forth after breakfast. Voltaire turned sharply round, and with his penetrating eye scanned my little figure from head to foot, while I stood as it were transfixed and spell-bound. After a few moments he said 'Per-met-tes-moi, Mon-sieur....' Having uttered these words, dividing the syllables in his peculiar manner, he paused as if ransacking his memory, as if searching for some appropriate term of reproach. Then curling his mouth to the left side of his face as he always did when he wished to be particularly sarcastic, he continued, 'Per-met-tes-moi, Monsieur... de Fleury...' to tell you (here he softened his tone, doubtlessly thinking me sufficiently punished), that I am not royal enough to understand and tolerate pages' tricks. Remember that at the court of

Ferney, wigs are respected in consideration of what may happen to be within them.' Observing my mortified and penitent air (which he seemed to suspect, and rightly, was partly assumed), he placed his hand under my chin, and raising my head, said, 'Come, let me look at you; if I mistake not, there is something in your face that tells me you will be a wicked rogue, and a good actor.' * * * Voltaire attended our rehearsals as well as our performances at Ferney. I can fancy I see him now, in his every-day dress, consisting of grey stockings and grey shoes, a large waistcoat of *basin* descending nearly to his knees, a large wig squeezed into a little black velvet cap, turned up in front; the whole completed by a *robe-de-chambre*, likewise of *basin*, the corners of which he would sometimes tuck into the waistband of his small-clothes."

Felicité's marriage turned out infelicitous: her husband was unfaithful, and a gambler: and M. Fleury dismisses him to obscurity in Sweden, very shortly after his peep at Ferney. Madame Sainville was at the time of his departure in Vienna; and so highly esteemed there, that she was received in the Imperial palace, and appointed to assist in the education of Marie Antoinette, until displaced by the intrigues of the Abbé Vermond; owing to the religious scruples (the reason is too farcical, considering whence it came) of Louis Quinze!! Meanwhile, the brother, who had resolved to be a free agent, fled from home, joined a company at Troyes, and made a fast friendship with a young actor named Paulin Goy. The two had only one wardrobe: the "principal attraction" of which was a pair of black silk breeches. They were to be worn, as fair-dealing dictated, in turn; but Fleury's coxombry prevailed over friendship and justice: and on the arrival of Mdlle. Clermonde, a provincial actress of great celebrity, he usurped the garment out of course, in spite of Paulin's remonstrances. High words ensued, swords were drawn, and had not an unknown lady stepped in,—the identical beauty on whose account Fleury so far forgot his honour for the sake of his legs, and intercepted the combat,—the swords would have drawn blood.

The sequel of the strong impulse which led Fleury to monopolize the shorts, was an intimacy with La Clermonde, and a suggestion on the part of the latter that he should endeavour to gain an engagement in the far-famed Madlle. Montansier's company at Versailles. This was accomplished: and we enter at once upon the dazzling and factitious and profligate world of Parisian theatrical life: dinners at Madame Danguerville's, at Vaugirard, (an actress powerful enough in her retirement to make and unmake diplomatic appointments)—visits to Le Kain—*fêtes* at Versailles—suppers with Beaumarchais and Goldoni—rivalries between La Clairon and La Dumesnil—that world, in short, of tinsel, and wit, and filigree, and despotic luxury and extravagance, so imitatively hit off in the correspondence of the time, the dissolution of which (close at hand) could not fail to be attended by terrible convulsions. What a grave and menacing significance is there in the following anecdote, for instance, if M. Fleury has not indulged in a little embroidery of the real facts! Unable, at so early a period of his life, to reach the haven of his ambition 'La Comédie Française,' he took a provincial engagement at Lyons, in Madame Lobreau's company:—

"Some speculating persons in Lyons, jealous of her prosperity, and wishing to supersede her in her appointment, joined in an intrigue with the Sieur L—, chief clerk in the office of the comptroller-general. The consequence was, that Madame Lobreau was deprived of the managerial privilege which she had obtained from the Duke de Villeroi, governor of the province. This blow she severely felt; but far from depressing her spirit, it served to inspire her with increased energy. Perseverance and activity enabled her to find a clue to the whole plot of which

she was the victim, and, by the aid of bribery, she succeeded in possessing herself of a copy of the agreement which had robbed her of her privilege. By this document, it appeared, that the new managers engaged to pay L— eight thousand livres per annum, together with a handsome *douceur*, in short, a *pot-de-vin*, such as might with propriety be offered to a man in his high situation. Furnished with this evidence, Madame Lobreau got into a post-chaise, and drove to Versailles, where she obtained an interview with M. de Villeroi, who was then doing duty at the palace as captain of the guards. She requested an audience of the queen, and her request was granted. The document of which Madame Lobreau had possessed herself, sufficiently unveiled the unjust and dishonest proceeding,—and that very day Louis XVI. was made acquainted with the whole affair. The king immediately summoned the minister, against whom he had already begun to conceive some degree of prejudice. 'Your chief clerk, L—, is a rogue,' said his Majesty. 'He abuses your authority for the purpose of injuring honest people, and selling appointments for his own profit. Make him refund the sum he has received for the management of the Lyons theatre; as an act of justice, you must reinstate the former managers, and dismiss this man.' The reprimand was as severe as unexpected. M. Turgot was amazed, and knew not what to think. After a pause, he replied, that he would inquire into the business, and if the clerk proved guilty, as had been reported to his Majesty, he would request that some marked punishment might be visited upon him. L— was tolerably adroit, but nevertheless he had no little difficulty in justifying himself. He had no idea of Madame Lobreau being in Paris, and never suspected that any one could penetrate the mystery of his devices. At the sitting of the next council, M. Turgot defended his clerk with all the ardour of a man whose mind was incapable of even comprehending meanness. After delivering an earnest encomium on the good conduct of the subordinate, the honest minister concluded with an appeal to the justice of the king for the punishment of the calumniators. Louis XVI. made no reply, but drawing from his pocket the documents relative to the affair, which the queen had presented to him, he threw them on the table, and turning his back on M. Turgot, he said, 'I neither like rogues nor those who defend them.' Next day M. Turgot's ministerial appointment ceased. He was superseded by M. de Clugni, and the *Fée Urrable* of Lyons resumed her wand and her power."

Not to follow out the train of thought to which such a strange morsel of secret history gives rise, we will return with Fleury to Paris: where Le Kain's last glories were shining, and Mdlle. Raucourt, and Mdlle. Dumesnil were in the zenith of their powers. As son to the Merope of the latter, Fleury made his *début*, and was well-nigh poisoned with a dose of chicken-broth and wine, which she handed him between the acts—her own particular specific—to reassure him. He failed, notwithstanding, as all young actors must be content to do: nothing daunted, however, standing aside, he had time to watch and shrewdness to study the peculiarities of the brilliant men then on the stage, with a view to striking out a style of his own. In this posture he witnessed the brilliant apotheosis of Voltaire, on the latter's return to Paris; and shortly afterwards, by recommending himself to Madame Campan and Marie Antoinette—who had not forgotten her old reading-mistress, Felicité,—got the permanent engagement at the French classical theatre, so eagerly canvassed for and coveted: and in the bestowal of which crowned heads deigned to interfere. Nor were the green-room affairs of the actors and actresses only matters of royal pleasure and displeasure: Fleury narrowly escaped having Mdlle. Raucourt forced upon him for a wife, by no less a person than the Queen herself! He but avoided royal anger, or a partner utterly distasteful to him, by the lady's self-will: who, while negotiations were pending, chose for herself, and ran away with the Prince D'Henin!

The adventurers and adventuresses, who swarmed in Paris during that period of outworn luxury and bankrupt morals, could not fail to pass before one mixing in courtly society as largely as M. Fleury; and accordingly we have a long story of a Lady Mantz, alias Madame de Wasser, protected by the Duke of Richelieu, a brilliant and fascinating woman, who ministered to her patron's credulity, by pretending to alchemical knowledge. We have also the celebrated Count Cagliostro, now raising the ghost of D'Alembert, at three o'clock in the morning—now discovered at a later hour in a public garden, indulging in a less terrible sport—the game of see-saw. Perhaps our readers shall have a peep at the versatile charlatan presently, but we must first glance at the mania for private theatricals, at that time so prevalent in Paris,—when a Duke and a Marquis might be heard addressing each other as Crispin and Dorante,—a grave magistrate called Damis,—and a gay young officer of the King's guard Purson, or "Sganarelle;"—when Madame de Montesson got up comedies to refine the taste of the Duke of Orleans, and Mademoiselle Guimard, the celebrated *danseuse*, who at sixty exhibited on the stage all the graces of sixteen, had her own town and country theatres, at her superb hotel, in the Chaussée d'Antin, and at her palace at Patin—thanks to the munificence of another Orleans—the Bishop of that see.

"On the evenings of these dramatic performances, even ladies of rank might be seen peeping *incognito* through the gilded grilles of the lower boxes. They entered and returned by a private door. The first actors in Paris vied with each other for the pleasure of performing in Guimard's charming little theatre."

The dramatic rage—and no wonder—did not even spare the court: what a resource must acting have offered from its forms and ennui. In spite of the disapproval of Louis Quinze and Madame Dubarry (!), who seem to have taken the decencies under their especial protection, Marie Antoinette, more capable of maintaining a will of her own than in the days when Madame Sainville was dismissed, managed to get up plays, though secretly, and without other audience than the Dauphin. After she came to the throne, the propensity manifested itself yet more decidedly, though Louis Seize was never supposed to encourage the scheme; and, by way of consulting the proprieties, it was agreed, that all stage salutes should be rehearsed by the gentleman raising the hand to the frill and kissing it (whence the saying "*faire jabot*"). Her Majesty, nevertheless, took parts in many an operetta and comedy—the "Barber of Seville," by that restless spirit Beaumarchais, among the number. She was a tolerable actress, says M. Fleury, in spite of her royalty.

The theatre, indeed, played no unimportant part in the brewing of the storm, which was then gathering. How few of those who now doze through Spohr's 'Jessonda' recollect the stir made among the bishops by the revival of Lemi-erre's tragedy, 'The Widow of Malabar,' whence its story was derived,—a revival owing, it is said, to the success of Voltaire's 'Orphan of China,' on which its author addressed the actors in "the following witty quatrain":—

Par vos délais longs et sans fin
C'est assez me mettre à l'épreuve,
Vous qui protégez l'orphelin
Ne ferez-vous autant pour la veuve?

"The Widow" was throughout a bold and open attack on priestcraft, and the clergy addressed a complaint to the King, "but at that moment," says M. Fleury, "so many political difficulties claimed attention, that ministers adjourned the consideration of the subject." The players maintained their ground, and gained a brilliant success, to the comfort of the deathbed of the flimsy and philosophical Dorat, who desired,

when almost in *articulo mortis*, to know the fate of the contest.

We have perhaps too much overlooked the career of our fine gentleman, while observing the signs of the times in which his airy and highly-finished comic powers were matured. Not only did he possess, as requisites for his profession, a sprightly humour, and that practised manner which good society alone can give—(believe it, ye actors of every generation!)—his powers of mimicry, too, were versatile and extraordinary. When playing Count Guelphar, in the 'Galant Escroc' of Collé, at Mademoiselle Guimard's theatre, "he received a *carte blanche* to imitate any nobleman or *petit-maitre* who might be among the spectators;" and with such success and freedom from offence that, concludes he, with an Ellistonian flourish of self-gratulation,—“I was like a fashionable portrait-painter, to whom all the great world are anxious to sit, and when solicited by persons who possessed no peculiarities worthy of imitation, I used to reply, in the language of fashionable artists, 'I cannot undertake to paint everybody.'” A scene in which this amusing faculty was subsequently exercised may perhaps amuse our readers:—

"When the Emperor Napoleon had his headquarters in Dresden, one of his favourite amusements was theatrical performances. A selection from the company of the Comédie Française repaired to the capital of Saxony, where the masterpieces of Corneille, Molière, and Racine were frequently performed. Unfortunately, an accident for a time deprived us of the services of one of the ablest hand-maids of Thalia; Mademoiselle Mars, whilst taking a drive in an open carriage, was thrown out and seriously hurt. General grief and consternation prevailed, and the celebrated Dr. Desgenettes was immediately despatched by the emperor to tender assistance to the charming actress. Talma and I, as soon as we heard of the occurrence, hurried to her house, where we anxiously awaited the arrival of the doctor, who soon appeared. He saw the patient, whose case was fortunately not so serious as we had anticipated. The doctor spoke to her for a few minutes, and gave her some prescriptions, and then immediately throwing aside as it were his professional character, he entered into general conversation with the ease and elegance of the most accomplished courtier. I was struck with this sudden transition. The playful, amiable manner, the animated and interesting flow of conversation which so peculiarly distinguished that eminent man, made a strong impression on me, and I carefully stored up in my mind my notes of observation, with the view of making Desgenettes the subject of one of my most favourite imitative sketches. An opportunity soon occurred, which led me almost undesignedly to finish up the picture, of which only the outline as yet existed in my mind. One evening, at a party given by Count Daru, the conversation turned on the accident sustained by Mademoiselle Mars, and Talma very naturally pronounced a warm eulogy on Baron Desgenettes. I did not fail to second him, and described the doctor's agreeable conversation on the day of his visit to Mademoiselle Mars. My imitative faculty came into play, as it were unconsciously; and the resemblance was so striking, that all who heard me, exclaimed: 'It is Baron Desgenettes himself.' This mimicry was quite unpremeditated, and I was not fully aware that I was practising any imitation till warned by Talma. But it was too late; the attention of the company had been directed to me, and several persons of the ladies urged me to repeat the imitation. I was thus obliged to enact the character of the great doctor during the best part of the night. A few days afterwards, Count Daru described to Baron Desgenettes what had occurred at his party, and bestowed lavish compliments on me. 'Positively,' said he, 'Fleury is more like you than you are like yourself. You are so gay in society, and so grave in the exercise of your professional duties, that you are yourself only as it were in shadow. Fleury is an embodied likeness of you. Do come and see him, or I should rather say, come and see yourself. I expect him this evening.' I was again at Count Daru's, and was not a little astonished when

Baron Desgenettes stepped up to me, and expressed a wish to see the personation of himself about which he had heard so much, and begged I would for a few minutes become his representative. I could not refuse a request which conveyed so high a compliment to me, though I confess I felt somewhat diffident in attempting the imitation in the presence of my distinguished model. By degrees, however, I got inspired with my subject; I moved about, chatting first with people on my right, then with others on my left, placing my hand on the hilt of my sword, after the doctor's peculiar manner. I had at my tongue's end some of the happy *mots* which were currently assigned to him, and I contrived to bring them in, not perhaps very inaptly. Then advancing to a lady, and conjuring up all my recollections of my first interview with the doctor, on his visit to Mademoiselle Mars, I went through a great part of the consultation scene, winding up the whole with a gracious adieu to Talma and a bow to Fleury."

In the next chapter we have a pretty family picture of Carlo Bertinazzi, the celebrated Harlequin, and the attached friend of Pope Clement the Fourteenth. What must Louis Quinze and Madame Dubarry have thought of the acquaintance? It had been even alleged in the coteries of Paris, "that at the time of the negotiations respecting Avignon, Carlin discharged the functions of plenipotentiary." But the truth was, that Lorenzo, the Pope's secular name, would have been drowned as a schoolboy, had not the buffoon in embryo saved his life. Moreover, the latter early called his powers of mimicry into play, for the purposes of helping them out of scrapes or into dainties, when they were on their rambles. The Pope, more mindful than the well-known Dean of Santiago, never forgot that his life had been in peril, and that, when hungry, he had eaten the cheese which Carlin had purveyed for him. In a subsequent chapter, treating of "the fashions and follies of the year 1784," among which figured "young girls in hoops, married ladies in *fourreaux*, scarlet coats with black buttons, enormous masses of frizzled hair, pictorial waistcoats, Mesmerian rods, air balloons," and the *cures* of St. Sulpice opening fancy fairs of toys and millinery for the relief of the poor—something of stronger fibre, the comedy of Beaumarchais, begins to appear on the horizon. This was not merely politically, but also dramatically seasonable, inasmuch as the French stage was universally considered to be in a declining state—Molière having fallen into discredit, as too gross, with the chaste ladies and manly gentlemen of the Regency, and an insipid *marivaudage* of affected dialogue having taken the place of the wit and character of the Arnolches and Tartuffes and Harpagnons of the greatest dramatic genius France ever possessed! Every obstacle that royalty and orthodoxy could raise against the performance of this 'Figaro' was accumulated:—in spite of which reading after reading and rehearsal after rehearsal were contrived by the indefatigable Beaumarchais, who knew that "a good stirring persecution" only quadrupled his chances for success. At last, by a *coup de maître*, he contrived to conciliate one of its most powerful enemies, the Minister of the Interior, M. le Baron de Breteuil: "On the day appointed, Beaumarchais proceeded with his manuscript to the Baron's residence, where he found assembled, besides the master of the house, MM. Gaillard, Champfort, and Rubière, Madame de Matignon, the minister's daughter, and several other ladies, her friends. Beaumarchais commenced by declaring that he would submit without reserve to all corrections and omissions which the ladies and gentlemen present might deem requisite. He began reading; he was stopped—some remarks were made, and a little discussion arose. At every interruption Beaumarchais yielded the point in dispute. But when the reading was ended, he went over the whole ground again, and defended the last details with so much address, such forcible reasoning, and such captivating pleasantry, that he completely silenced his

censors. all declarations unique piece were pro interpo a bon-mot. "This was de Matig the rage: de Matig M. de B elegant Figaro w That he opinion. throwing and the of April, posted up nouncing Journé. ticket off of Paris rank, ev letters, it tickets. Duchess wait until to take Duchess and haue her to p violence price for their way the guar iron bars of confu people threw the they pas But while still great who had in the b a tavern, of plates twenty treasury thousand alated dist Not c people t all satis at court the King Count d took the his perfe jacket of and pass stung in veiling, reparte when, "exclaims cut; an instruct Society shadowe the com the Cou Antoinet one was first not to burn Enou escape f slightly, promise and his not, in Madam ordinary

censors. They laughed and applauded, and at length, all declared that the play was "a most original and unique production." Instead of omissions, additions were proposed. Every one of the party was eager to interpolate a word or two. M. de Breteuil suggested a *bon-mot*, which Beaumarchais thankfully accepted: "This will save the fourth act," said he. Madame de Matignon chose the colour for the page's ribbon. The colour was approved; it would become quite the rage: "Who would not be proud to wear Madame de Matignon's colours?" said Beaumarchais. "But M. de Breteuil's *bon-mot* would not be heard, the elegant ribbon would not be seen, if the second *Figaro* were not permitted to appear on the stage." That he must appear was eventually the unanimous opinion. Beaumarchais completely succeeded in throwing dust in the eyes of the Baron de Breteuil, and the consequence was, that on Tuesday the 27th of April, 1784, the bill of the Théâtre Français was posted up in all quarters of Paris, triumphantly announcing: "Le Mariage de Figaro; ou La Folle Journée." Many hours before the opening of the ticket office, I really believe that half the population of Paris was at the doors.—Persons of the highest rank, even princes of the blood, besieged him with letters, imploring to be favoured with the author's tickets. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the Duchess de Bourbon sent her valet to the office to wait until the distribution of the tickets, which was to take place at four o'clock. At two o'clock the Duchess d'Orsmund laid aside her accustomed dignity and hauteur, and humbly solicited the crowd to allow her to pass; and Madame de Talleyrand, doing a violence to her parsimonious disposition, paid triple price for a box. *Cordons bleus* were seen elbowing their way through the crowd jostled by Savoyards; the guards were dispersed, the doors forced open, the iron bars broken down, and an inconceivable scene of confusion and danger ensued. One half of the people had not been able to procure tickets, and threw their admission money to the door-keepers as they passed, or rather, as they were carried along. But whilst all this was happening outside, the disorder which prevailed within the theatre was, if possible, still greater. No less than three hundred persons who had procured tickets at an early period, dined in the boxes. Our theatre seemed transformed into a tavern, and nothing was heard but the clattering of plates and the drawing of corks. * * The first twenty performances of this play brought to the treasury of the Comédie Française one hundred thousand francs; and the attraction continued unabated during seventy-five nights.

Not content with this universal answer of the people to his appeal, the daring and indefatigable satirist succeeded in bringing out his play at court. It was acted by the Queen, before the King had so decidedly prohibited it. The Count d'Artois, who had so severely judged it, took the part of *Figaro*, little dreaming which way his performance tended:—that under the round jacket of the Barber were working the thoughts and passions of a mind demoralized by example, stung into energy by a sense of injury, and veiling, beneath careless banter and impudent repartee, the vindictive bitterness of a Shylock, when, "triumphing to himself in words," he exclaims, "The villany you teach me I will execute; and it shall go hard but I will better the instruction!" There is the whole tragedy of the Society of the Regency, and its terrible close foreshadowed, in the famous soliloquy of *Figaro* at the commencement of the fifth act; and when the Count d'Artois declaimed it, and Marie Antoinette stood at the side-scenes to hear, the one was striking, the other listening to, the first notes of the fiddle to which their Rome was to burn!

Enough of these speculations: yet who may escape from treating of French society, however slightly, when the subject is French Art? We promised our readers a peep at Count Cagliostro and his marvels—but can only make room for a *mot*, in which his beautiful wife, the velvet-eyed Madame Seraphina, accounted for his extraordinary success. "Since their faith is no longer

there," said she, speaking of their clients, and pointing upwards, "they are ready to believe everything." What will those reply, who consider charlatanry as the inevitable accompaniment of Belief? At all events, the former "ruled the hour" in Paris, during the latter years of the last century. When the times of trouble came, the actors of the Comédie Française were deprived of their home, neglected, and persecuted; and Fleury was desired to call one day on Mlle. Raucourt, to consult what was best to be done. No longer afraid of the noose matrimonial, he paid the requested visit, and set forth with her on a mission, as he believed, of supplication to the Directory. He was vexed, therefore, with qualms of apprehension, on perceiving that the actress had thought fit to don a shawl, with Royalist devices concealed among its border of roses, lilies, and jessamine—the trick of "La Violette," so successfully employed in Napoleon's time, being already, it seems, understood among the embroiderers of Paris:—

"I soon perceived that instead of going in the direction of the Luxembourg, we were driving towards the Pont Neuf. My attention was arrested by the novel spectacle then exhibited on the quays. And the Pont Neuf!—How changed was its aspect! In spite of the fine width of its *trottoirs*, they were choked up to such a degree that a man of the slenderest bulk could with difficulty find room to pass along them sideways. The impediments in the way of the free thoroughfare were chiefly occasioned by the stalls of some brokers, who exhibited for sale a variety of articles truly emblematic of the great social convulsion which had agitated France. Beside an old earthen chaffing-pan there lay a set of fire-irons, curiously and elaborately wrought; a washing tub stood close to an elegant harpsichord; ruffles and shoe-buckles fastened to the hands of a marble figure of Mercury; rusty iron *casseroles* lying on a fragment of beautiful Bergamo tapestry; a fine bronze bust of Turenne near some old salad baskets; and the figure of a weeping Niobe stretched at full length next to a rat-trap. It would be difficult to conceive the effect produced by this whimsical combination of objects, suggesting to the mind the most incongruous ideas of luxury and poverty. These brokers' stalls presented a picture, which might not unaptly be likened to the halt of a band of gypsies, after the pillage of a noble chateau and a humble cottage. Alas! it was a picture of *la France nouvelle*! I was roused from my reflections by the smiling countenance of a beautiful boy, about seven or eight years of age, who was nimbly skipping about by the side of our carriage, which was unable to proceed faster than at a walking pace. The boy passed and re-passed several times, so that I had an opportunity of observing his movements, which excited my curiosity. To the men he addressed a few words, and then left them; but he followed the women more closely, especially those of the well-dressed class. After speaking earnestly to them, he unfolded a bill, to which he drew their attention; then, when they had glanced at it, he folded it up again and tripped away to go through the same manoeuvre with the next who came up. 'What a beautiful boy that is,' said I to my taciturn companion. 'I am quite amused by observing his fantastic and mysterious movements.'—'He is a page,' observed Raucourt; 'and he has a message for me.'—'A page!' said I; 'then I presume we are to have an adventure?'—No sooner had I uttered these words than the boy approached the carriage, and, standing on tiptoe, held up his bill, crying out, 'Look, Madame! look Monsieur!—would you like to draw the cards?'—Raucourt threw some money to the boy, and then showed him two tickets. He looked at them and then said, 'Yes, Madame, it is to-day.' He stopped, as if expecting something more to be said, and at that moment our coachman pulled up. The coach door was opened, we alighted, and I offered my arm to my fair companion. The boy walked before us gravely and silently. We passed more than twenty carriages, all drawn up in a line. At length we reached the Rue d'Anjou, formerly the Rue Dauphine, and we stopped at the door of a house, which might have been called a *hôtel*, had not republican

equality banished titles even from houses. * * We passed through a court-yard, and having ascended a flight of steps, entered the house. In the court yard and in the entrance hall I saw assembled numbers of elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, all looking very serious and very anxious, and apparently feeling the same impatience that I did to discover some mystery which could not be very easily guessed at. Still preceded by the boy, who ushered us through the assembled throng, Raucourt and I entered an apartment on the ground floor, in which a respectably dressed man was waiting. The lady presented her two tickets, and the man showed us into an inner room, closing the door after us. Our pretty little page instantly disappeared behind some old tapestry with which the walls of the chamber were hung. This apartment was darkened by thick window curtains, nearly covering the whole of the windows. Skeletons of birds and skins of serpents were lying here and there in different parts of the room. On a side table, I observed a human skull, crowned with a garland of coquelicots, such as might have been worn by a fashionable belle; and casting my eyes in another direction, I beheld a long lock of hair fastened to the wall by the blade of a poignard. Such were the adornments of this mysterious chamber. After allowing me to gaze around in utter amazement for some moments, Raucourt solved the mystery by acquainting me that I was in the residence of Martin, the famous fortune-teller, and that she had come to consult the Oracle of Fate. * * Never did nature endow a man with personal advantages so well suited to his calling, as those possessed by Martin, the fortune-teller. He was a hideous little dwarf closely resembling Le Sage's description of Amodeus. His legs were so exceedingly short, that when he walked, or rather rolled, into the room, he appeared to me to have no legs at all. The wizard, as soon as he perceived us, made a slight inclination of his head. He then seized a pair of crutches, on which he adroitly fixed his arms; his little figure was thus for a few moments suspended, and swang to and fro, his feet being several inches from the ground. Then taking a powerful leap, he seated himself on a stool which was placed beside a table. In this position, standing, as we did, at some distance from him, we could discern little more than his head. Directing his eyes towards us, he smiled, and in a very pleasing tone of voice uttered a few words in a decided Italian accent. * * A dialogue of some length ensued between Martin and Raucourt, in which the lady digressed very widely from the professed object of her visit. The fortune-teller then very politely requested her to define with more precision the nature of the subject on which she wished him to throw light, by aid of his prophetic power. At this moment, a man, who officiated as a sort of clerk to Martin, entered the room, holding a plate in his hand. I understood the sort of precise definition that was alluded to, and I dropped a piece of gold into the plate. Raucourt then, turning to Martin, said, 'Citizen, the subject is this:—There is a certain affair now pending, in the success of which we are deeply interested; and we wish you to inform us whether we may count on its success?'—'You make your inquiry in very vague terms, lady,' returned Martin (he did not address her by the title of citizenship). 'You remind me of poor Vestris, who, on the day of his wife's *début*, wished to have a mass performed; but, fearing a refusal, he begged that the priest would offer the holy sacrifice to obtain the success of something.' Raucourt and I gazed at one another with amazement! Vestris mentioned by Martin! A family anecdote related! We had not announced our names, and we supposed that the fortune-teller did not know us. Had he guessed who we were, or was it by mere chance that the *à propos* incident occurred to his mind? I was not a little puzzled; but recollecting that we had no time to waste, and that people in greater trouble than ourselves were anxiously awaiting their turn for an interview with the sorcerer, I was preparing to shape our question in a more definite form, when Martin interrupted me, saying, 'You must write down your question, and I will answer it. But,' added he, with a most mysterious air, 'the written question must remain on the table here, and I will withdraw into the next room, and answer the question, without seeing what you may write down.' So

saying, he resumed his crutches, and retired, with the same peculiar motion with which he had entered, and we saw no more of him."

For the sequel of the scene of jugglery, the reader will consult M. Fleury's pages. We shall return to them, since, apart from its amusement as a store of anecdote, and a specimen of that "style potential," in which the Vestrides and Contats of the French theatre used to indulge themselves, it interests us, for the same reasons that gave Mr. Swinburne's journals their value. Strange coincidences too, and more, we apprehend, than some take the trouble of noting, might be found between the Paris of 1841 and the Paris of 1796—between the days of Rachel and the days of Raucourt. They do not, however, extend, so far as we know, to the provision of a double for "Fleury-fleury"—the inimitable!

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Gideon Giles, the Roper, by Thomas Miller, author of 'Royston Gower.'—This is by many degrees Mr. Miller's best novel; and that the story, as a whole, is not damaged by the fragmentary mode in which it has been published, is a fact highly creditable to his powers. If he knew his own strength, he would never again venture upon high historical ground—but loitering along the common side and the meadow-path, and sitting under the yew-tree which shades the village "public," or the shrouding tent which covers so much gipsy lawlessness and merriment, "gather humours off men,"—such as he understands, and can describe again with all the fidelity of intimacy. Allowing for a strain of the lachrymose (nothing is farther from the true pathetic) in the fortunes of the village beauty, Ellen Giles, who is an object of lawless pursuit to "all and sundry," his story is well contrived. In spite of Mr. Miller's intimations that he draws from life, we hope that there are not many squires now-a-days in themselves as unprincipled as Sir Edward Lee, or who have such thorough villains for their game-keepers as Banes. The hero of the book, Gideon Giles, is an honest, plain, hard-working Englishman: but *our* hero is Ben Brust, a jolly fellow, with the heart of a man and the appetite of three—who hates work, and the saving of money, and is never so contented as when, having invited some guest to share his mutton, he breaks in upon the banquet like a wolf before the time, and sweeps it all away himself. We had marked for extract a scene of this description, the dinner which cousin William did not eat; but it is too long to be given entire, and too well-knit to admit of curtailment.

Compton Audley, or Hands not Hearts, by Lord William Lennox.—A harsh monosyllable contains in brief the honest character of these volumes. Many essays have we seen at fiction; but few, happily for poor critics, so clumsy as this. Page succeeds to page, more dreary in its attempts at jocosity than the last: scene to scene, without the story being in the least the better for it. While we share Charles Lamb's love for novels of every quality, we are sure that "Elia's" self, in his most triumphantly paradoxical humour, could not have found a good word to say for 'Compton Audley,' unless he had got by heart certain paragraphs, in which it is recommended (being only the twentieth similarly paraded) as decidedly the best novel of the season.

A Summer's Day at Windsor, and a Visit to Eton, by Edward Jesse: with illustrations.—It is enough to name Mr. Shaw, as the superintendent of the pictorial portion of this little volume, to warrant it excellent. The letterpress is less satisfactory, and disappointing, from one so well esteemed by the public as Mr. Jesse. As a guide to Windsor Castle, it is incomplete, because not affording the slightest glimpse at the portions of the Castle not generally seen—the private apartments. The Catalogue of the pictures, too, is executed with but a scanty knowledge of art.

Sketches of the Past and Present State of Moray, edited by William Rhind, Esq., with Illustrations drawn and etched by D. Alexander, Esq.—Though this volume has been hidden under a mass of ephemeral rubbish longer than we care to tell, it is not

one, upon its disinterment, to fall to dust. We allude to it now, that, when Summer sends abroad the annually increasing troop of pilgrims, those who go northward may put these sketches of Moray in the carriage (it being too large for the coat) pocket. After several pleasant and instructive pages on the ancient state of the country, a catalogue of the objects of interest yet remaining follows. This is rich; and to tempt the traveller we are shown Pluscarden Priory, Kinloss Abbey, Elgin Cathedral—the scene of the Wolf of Badenoch's atrocities, so forcibly described in Sir Thomas Dick Lauder's not forgotten romance—Spynie Palace, Gordonstown House, Forres, a station for every lover of Shakespeare!—&c. &c. Romantic legend and historical fact are pleasantly narrated in turn: the book, in short, is a good one of its class, and, as we have said, not likely soon to become obsolete.

The Canadian Naturalist: a series of Conversations on the Natural History of Lower Canada, by P. H. Gosse.—Every page of this book exhibits to us the peculiarities of the animal and vegetable world in North America with a freshness which is scarcely surpassed by the writings of Gilbert White. The conversations are supposed to take place at intervals of two or three weeks apart throughout the year, so that the whole phenomena of Natural History are brought before the reader. All the wood-cuts are good, and some—the Canadian Lynx, for example—are really beautiful. The details relative to the manners of the native Indians are very ample, and acquire a double interest from the interesting exhibition and lectures of Mr. Catlin, at the Egyptian Hall. They are too long, however, for extract; we therefore prefer the following, relative to a humming-bird, which had become quite familiar, and would come a dozen times a day, or more, to be fed:—"After fluttering at the door or window, it would alight on a neighbouring tree till its food was prepared for it; and then, upon calling 'peet, peet,' it would dart in a straight line with the velocity of an arrow to receive it. We generally filled two or three of the tubes of the honeysuckle with syrup, which it extracted while on the wing, buzzing around the flower held in our hand, and inserting its bill, which was about three-fourths of an inch in length, from which it protruded its tongue, half an inch longer, with which it sucked up the liquid. If, after flying to its perch, it wiped its bill upon the limb, we were then assured that it wanted no more at that time. In the course of half an hour it would be back again after more food; and if the member of the family to whom he applied was engaged, and not ready to attend to him, he would try over and over again to excite attention by flying into different apartments of the house, and buzzing within a few inches. He greatly preferred thickened syrup, also sugar and cream, wine and water mixed with sugar, but some honey obtained from a humble bee's nest he appeared to treat with great contempt."—The "Indian Summer," a very remarkable phenomenon, peculiar apparently to North America, is also noticed. It never appears till after the summer has yielded to cold weather, and generally follows a series of wintry days, and often pretty severe frosts. It is more like summer than autumn, with a peculiar haze round the horizon not common in summer. The sun is short of his beams, and the air appears filled with a light thin smoke. It sometimes continues for two or three weeks, the weather during that time being beautiful and serene; but at others it only lasts as many days. The causes of this phenomenon are not yet determined, although many conjectures have been hazarded, some of which are started by the 'Canadian Naturalist,' who, we trust, will be induced to continue his researches on the natural peculiarities of his native country.

The Green Book: or Gleanings from the Writing Desk of a Literary Agitator, by John Cornelius O'Callaghan.—Unluckily for Ireland, the land in which Politics takes the lion's share in Philosophy, Learning and Imagination, chequering with stormy controversy the scholar's quiet hours of contemplation, and darkening those gayer moments when Fancy and Art would disport themselves.—This Green Book will probably excite more attention in the cells of Trinity College, or the mansions of St. Stephen's Green, than it can hope to do in England.

Eighty-one pages are devoted to satirical and musical verses of unequal merit,—whether published elsewhere or not, Mr. O'Callaghan does not explicitly tell us. To these, follows an *Irish* postscript of four hundred pages, of controversy on political and ecclesiastical matters. When shall these things cease? their iteration is more painful than wearisome.

A Numismatic Manual, by J. Y. Akermann.—By some accident this volume escaped our observation on first publication. We regret this, for it will be found most useful by the numismatic student. The subject is systematically arranged and very fully illustrated, and each section has an historical introduction.

Junius—A Letter to a Brigadier General, &c.—This is a republication of a pamphlet which appeared in 1760, and believed by the editor, Mr. N. W. Simons, and others, from internal evidence, to have been written by Junius. The question is well argued, but we do not agree to the conclusion.

The Year-Book of Facts.—Compiled and condensed with the same care which has on former occasions received from us its due praise.

Ports, Arsenals, and Dockyards of France.—A republication of a series of letters, on a subject of great interest, which appeared lately in the *Times*.

The Mechanic's and Labourer's Guide Book to the United States—contains much useful information.

Poems of Schiller Explained, by E. Bach.—An illustrative comment and glossary, which the student will find useful.

Relic of the Royal George.—A narrative of the loss of the vessel, and of the plans from time to time adopted to raise her, with particulars of Col. Pasley's attempt to destroy her by submarine explosions of gunpowder. The book is sold literally "in boards," for the covers are of wood cut from the timbers of the ship.

My Life, by an Ex-Dissenter.—This is the most disgraceful book of controversy that we have seen of late days; it superadds personal bitterness to polemic rancour, and misrepresents notorious facts with a boldness which could not easily be paralleled. For instance, the Dissenters are reproached for leaving the Hibernian Society, the fact being that they were driven out from that body on the motion of Lord Teignmouth. The English church, we are assured, disclaim such advocacy:—*Non tali auxilio nec defensoribus istis, Ecclesia eget.*

The Corsair's Bridal, Scio, and other Poems, by W. M. Henry, Esq.—To speak of an author as an imitator of Byron, is to describe a class—not an individual; yet we know not how else to characterize the bard before us, excepting that we may perhaps come nearer to his personality by representing him as probably the feeblest and least successful of "his order,"—the heaviest sin of his kind which Byron has to answer for. The public are so weary of imitations of Beppo and Don Juan, that we cannot persuade ourselves to quote from that portion of the volume, even to win a laugh from them; but will give, instead, an ingenious specimen of that species of versification which is so contrived that, if written continuously, instead of being broken into lines, it could not be recognized as poetry. These are pleasant literary puzzles; and our readers may exercise their ingenuity in resolving, if they can, the following passage into its constituent verses:—"Aye, even courteously assuring our wealthy senators of his protection, and at once conjuring each loyal Sciot, as a friend, to aid with zeal and resolution, and make some rebel leaders bend; thus happily putting to an end this sad and shameful revolution."

List of New Books.—The Parliamentary Guide, by R. B. Mosse, Esq. 18mo. 4s. cl.—Dix on Land-Surveying, new edit. royal 12mo. 8s. bd.—Sigourney's Letters to Young Ladies, new edit. 4s. 6d. cl.—Family Library, Vols. LXXVI, LXXVII, LXXVIII, 'Eustace's Classical Tour,' roy. 18mo. 15s. cl.—Eustace's Classical Tour, new edit. 3 vols. post 8vo. 24s. cl.—Lord Jocelyn's Six Months with the Chinese, new edit. 6s. 6d. cl.—De Clifford, or the Constant Man, by R. P. Ward, 4 vols. post 8vo. 21s. 2s. bds.—The Idler in Italy, by the Countess of Hesselington, Vol. III. 2nd edit. post 8vo. 12s. cl.—St. Antholin, a Tale for the Times, by the Rev. F. E. Paget, 4s. 6d. cl.—History of Duelling, by Millingen, F.R.S. 2 vols. 8vo. 23s. bds.—Colman's Terence, new edit. revised by P. A. Nuttall, 12mo. 7s. cl.—Hobbes' English Works, Vol. V. 8vo. 12s. cl.—Murray's Travels in North America, new edit. 2 vols. 8vo. 28s. cl.—Maximus and Specimens of William Muggins, by Charles Selby, 8vo. 12s. cl.—Bible Cyclopaedia, Vol. I. folio, 25s. cl.—Gems of Sacred Poetry, 2 vols. 18mo. 8s. cl.—Agrippa, or the Nominal Christian, by the Rev. John Jefferson, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.

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This volume is a collection of the letters of the Pacific, and contains some of the most interesting and valuable information that has been published since the late war. It is a volume of no small importance, and one which every person who is interested in the history of the Pacific should possess. The letters are arranged in chronological order, and are written in a clear and concise style. They contain a great deal of interesting information about the history of the Pacific, and about the people who lived there. They are a valuable addition to any collection of books on the Pacific.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL for MARCH, kept by the Assistant Secretary, at the Apartments of the Royal Society,
By ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

MAR.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			Dew Point at 9 A.M., deg. Fahr.	Diff. of Wet and Dry bulb Thermometer.	External Thermometers.				Rain in inches, Head of at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.	
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.			Fahrenheit.		Self-registering					
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.		Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.				9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest				
1841.																
M 1	29.614	29.606	41.9	29.644	29.636	42.6	36	02.3	39.3	41.7	36.9	42.6	SE	Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—light rain.		
T 2	29.688	29.680	41.9	29.542	29.536	43.6	37	02.5	37.4	42.4	35.0	43.2	SW	Overcast—light rain—brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. The same.		
W 3	29.324	29.318	43.7	29.428	29.422	44.8	39	02.2	42.4	47.3	37.3	46.7	NW	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy, with occasional light rain. Evening, Overcast.		
T 4	29.912	29.904	42.3	29.874	29.868	43.8	36	02.7	36.8	41.7	35.2	48.3	NW	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast—light rain.		
F 5	29.876	29.870	44.9	29.616	29.610	46.6	40	02.4	42.0	45.3	36.2	45.4	S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Overcast—light rain—high wind. Evening, The same.		
S 6	29.764	29.758	45.7	29.900	29.896	47.0	41	03.4	43.2	50.4	40.5	50.3	SW	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev. Cloudy.		
○ 7	30.080	30.072	48.7	30.140	30.136	50.2	43	03.0	51.7	57.8	42.6	52.5	NW	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine & moonlight.		
M 8	30.414	30.406	50.0	30.406	30.400	52.7	45	01.9	50.5	58.8	49.6	59.2	SW	{ A.M. Light fog, with very slight rain. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Evening, Fine and moonlight.		
T 9	30.444	30.438	51.0	30.418	30.410	52.4	46	01.7	41.5	55.6	43.4	60.3	SSW	{ A.M. Light fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Fine and moonlight.		
W 10	30.490	30.484	50.6	30.454	30.448	52.3	45	02.5	46.7	57.6	43.3	56.5	S	{ A.M. Light fog. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Fine & moonlight.		
T 11	30.512	30.504	49.4	30.450	30.442	51.3	44	02.5	45.2	58.3	40.0	58.7	S	{ A.M. Light fog. P.M. Fine & cloudless. Ev. Fine and moonlight.		
F 12	30.400	30.394	51.2	30.346	30.338	52.9	46	02.2	46.6	59.7	42.2	59.3	E	{ A.M. Light fog. P.M. Fine and cloudless. Evening, Fine and starlight—light fog.		
S 13	30.398	30.392	51.9	30.390	30.382	53.0	47	02.5	46.6	55.3	44.6	61.0	N	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Fine and cloudless. Ev. Overcast—light fog.		
○ 14	30.388	30.380	47.7	30.296	30.290	50.0	45	01.3	40.2	52.4	37.7	56.7	E	{ A.M. Overcast—light fog. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Fine & starlight.		
M 15	30.176	30.170	48.5	30.098	30.092	52.0	40	02.0	42.8	59.7	39.6	53.7	NE	{ A.M. Light fog. P.M. Fine & cloudless. Ev. Fine and starlight.		
T 16	29.942	29.936	50.6	29.818	29.810	52.7	47	03.9	49.7	60.2	41.6	60.6	S	{ A.M. Fine—light fog. P.M. Fine & cloudless. Ev. Fine & starlight.		
W 17	29.630	29.624	52.2	29.604	29.598	54.0	49	02.9	51.3	51.7	49.2	61.7	S	{ A.M. Overcast—slight rain and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Fine and starlight.		
T 18	29.444	29.438	51.6	29.512	29.506	53.8	48	03.5	51.7	53.0	46.8	56.7	E var.	{ A.M. Overcast—high wind—slight rain early. P.M. Cloudy—high wind. Evening, Fine and starlight—brisk wind.		
F 19	29.628	29.622	51.0	29.636	29.630	52.5	48	04.1	49.7	51.7	44.2	56.0	SSW var.	{ A.M. Cloudy—high wind, same throughout the night. P.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. Ev. Fine and starlight—brisk wind. { Ex. ditto.		
S 20	30.650	30.644	53.0	29.640	29.632	51.7	46	04.6	50.3	47.7	44.3	54.0	.022 E	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. P.M. Overcast—light rain—brisk wind.		
○ 21	29.672	29.666	53.2	29.628	29.622	52.5	46	03.5	49.5	52.5	43.6	56.4	.133 S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. Evening, Overcast—brisk wind.		
M 22	29.378	29.372	52.2	29.456	29.448	55.5	50	02.0	51.9	55.5	48.7	54.3	.036 S var.	{ A.M. Overcast—very heavy rain, also throughout the night. P.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. Ev. Fine and starlight.		
T 23	29.878	29.870	54.3	30.030	30.022	53.9	48	03.5	49.3	56.5	43.2	56.6	.025 SSW	{ A.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds & wind. Ev. Fine and starlight.		
W 24	30.270	30.262	52.0	29.258	29.250	53.6	46	03.5	51.4	54.3	46.6	58.3	SE	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine & starlight.		
T 25	30.160	30.152	54.2	30.044	30.036	53.9	45	03.5	51.8	57.3	44.3	55.7	SSE	{ Fine—light clouds & haze throughout the day. Ev. Fine and starlight.		
F 26	29.728	29.722	55.0	29.596	29.590	56.4	40	04.8	55.5	62.3	47.0	59.0	S	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Early part cloudy—slight rain; after fine and starlight.		
S 27	29.778	29.772	55.6	29.792	29.784	55.2	48	02.6	51.5	54.6	45.0	64.2	.036 S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds. P.M. Fine—light clouds, with occasional showers.		
○ 28	29.970	29.966	57.9	29.930	29.924	54.9	44	02.7	45.0	54.5	41.2	59.7	.105 SSW	{ Ex. 3 to 6, shower, with rainbow—after, fine and starlight.		
M 29	29.938	29.932	52.3	29.874	29.866	55.0	48	03.0	51.2	54.3	44.8	56.6	S	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Overcast, as also the evening.		
T 30	29.912	29.904	55.9	29.950	29.944	54.4	48	03.3	48.2	53.8	43.0	57.0	.072 W	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast—light rain.		
W 31	29.678	29.672	57.7	29.594	29.588	53.7	46	04.1	49.0	52.7	44.7	55.0	.069 S var.	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Ev. Fine and starlight.		
MEAN.	29.940	29.933	50.6	29.915	29.908	51.3	45	02.9	47.1	53.6	42.7	55.4	1.047	Sum.	{ Mean Barometer corrected { 9 A.M. 3 P.M.	

Note.—The daily observations are recorded just as they are read off from the scale, without the application of any correction whatever.

VISIT TO THE VOLCANO OF KIRAUEA.

This volcano is situate in the southern part of the island of Owyhee, the largest of the group called the Sandwich Islands. Owyhee, like many of the islands of the Pacific, is of volcanic origin. Vast streams of lava have since flowed over the greater part of it—some of these have rolled on for thirty and more miles, and then precipitated themselves over the cliffs into the sea—and so late as the year 1800 a single current from one of the large craters filled up an extensive bay, twenty miles in length, and formed the present coast. The recent lava is quite bare, without even a blade of grass, while the more ancient has become decomposed, and is covered with the most luxuriant vegetation. The scenery of the island is sublime; some of the mountains are from fifteen to eighteen thousand feet above the level of the sea. The following account of a visit to the great volcano has been drawn up for Prof. Silliman, from the statements of two American captains who visited it in 1838:—

"Early in the morning, on the 7th of May, Captains Chase and Parker, in company with several others, left the port at Lord Byron's Bay, for the purpose of visiting the celebrated volcano Kirauea. After travelling a few miles through a delightful country interspersed with hill and valley, and adorned with clusters of trees, hung with the richest foliage, we came to a forest several miles in extent, so entangled with shrubs, and interwoven with creeping vines, that its passage was extremely difficult. On issuing from this, the scenery again wore a pleasing aspect, but was soon changed into a dreary waste. Their route was now in the direct course of a large stream of lava, thirty miles in length and four or five in breadth. The lava was of recent formation, with a surface, in some places, so slippery as to endanger falling, and in others, so rugged as to render it toilsome and dangerous to pass. Scattered around, were a few shrubs that had taken root in the volcanic sand and scoria, and on each side of the stream

grew a stunted forest. Mouna Roa and Mouna Kea were seen in the distance, and on either side stretched the broad expanse of the ocean, mingling with the far horizon. The party had travelled nearly the whole extent of the current of lava before sunset; they were, however, much fatigued, and gladly took possession of a rude hut erected by the islanders, where they slept soundly through the night. Early the next morning, ere the sun rose, they resumed their journey, and soon a beautiful landscape broke upon their view, but its delightful scenery detained them only a few moments, for the smoke of the volcano was seen rising gracefully in the distance. Quickening their march, they arrived soon after nine o'clock at a smoking lake of sulphur and scoria, from which they collected some delicate specimens of crystallized sulphur, and proceeded on. The next object which attracted the attention, was a great fissure five or six hundred feet from the crater. It was about thirty feet wide, five or six hundred feet long, and from all parts of it constantly issued immense bodies of steam, so hot that the guides cooked potatoes over it in a few minutes. The steam on meeting the cold air is condensed, and not far from the fissure on the north, is a beautiful pond formed from it, that furnishes very good water, and is the only place where it occurs for many miles. The pond is surrounded with luxuriant trees, and sporting on its surface were seen large flocks of wild fowls. It was now ten o'clock, and the whole party, since passing the lake of sulphur, had been walking over a rugged bed of lava, and standing by the side of vast chasms, of fathomless depth. They had now arrived at the great crater of Kirauea, eight miles in circumference, and stood upon the very brink of a precipice, from which they looked down more than a thousand feet into a horrid gulf, where the elements of nature seemed warring against each other. Huge masses of fire were seen rolling and tossing like the billowy ocean. From its volcanic cones, continually burst lava, glowing with the most intense heat. Hissing,

rumbling, agonizing sounds came from the very depths of the dread abyss, and dense clouds of smoke and steam rolled from the crater.

"Such awful, thrilling sights and sounds were almost enough to make the stoutest heart recoil with horror, and shrink from the purpose of descending to the great seat of action. But men who had been constantly engaged in the most daring enterprise—whose whole lives had been spent on the stormy deep, were not easily deterred from the undertaking. Each one of the party, with a staff to test the safety of the footing, now commenced a perilous journey down a deep and rugged precipice, sometimes almost perpendicular, and frequently intersected with frightful chasms. In about forty-five minutes they stood upon the floor of the great volcano. Twenty-six separate volcanic cones were seen, rising from twenty to sixty feet; only eight of them, however, were in operation. Up several of those that were throwing out ashes, cinders, red hot lava, and steam, they ascended, and so near did they approach to the crater of one, that with their canes they dipped into the liquid fire. Into another they threw large masses of scoria, but they were instantly tossed high into the air. A striking spectacle in the crater at this time, was its lakes of melted lava. There were six; but one, the south-west, occupied more space than all the others. Standing by the side of this, they looked down more than three hundred feet upon its surface, glowing with heat, and saw huge billows of fire dash themselves on its rocky shore—whilst columns of molten lava, sixty or seventy feet high, were hurled into the air, rendering it so hot that they were obliged immediately to retreat. After a few minutes the violent struggle ceased, and the whole surface of the lake was changing to a black mass of scoria; but the pause was only to renew its exertions, for while they were gazing at the change, suddenly the entire crust which had been formed commenced cracking, and the burning lava soon rolled across the lake, heaving the coating on its

surface, like cakes of ice upon the ocean-surge. Not far from the centre of the lake there was an island which the lava was never seen to overflow; but it rocked like a ship upon a stormy sea. The whole of these phenomena were witnessed by the party several times, but their repetition was always accompanied with the same effects. They now crossed the black and rugged floor of the crater, which was frequently divided by huge fissures, and came to a ridge of lava, down which they descended about forty feet, and stood upon a very level plain, occupying one-fourth of the great floor of the crater. This position however was found very uncomfortable to the feet, for the fire was seen in the numerous cracks that intersected the plain only one inch from the surface. Captain Chase lighted his cigar in one of them, and with their walking-sticks they could in almost any place pierce the crust, and penetrate the liquid fire. Sulphur abounds everywhere in and around the volcano: but here the whole side of the precipice, rising more than a thousand feet, was one entire mass of sulphur. They ascended several feet, and were detaching some beautiful crystallized specimens, when accidentally a large body of it was thrown down and that rolled into a broad crack of fire and obliged them immediately to retreat, for the fumes that rose nearly suffocated them. They had now been in the crater more than five hours, and would gladly have lingered, but the last rays of the setting sun were gilding the cliffs above, and they commenced their journey upward, which occupied them about one hour and a quarter. They repaired to their rude hut, and while the shades of evening were gathering, dispatched their frugal meal. Curiosity, however, would not allow them to sleep without revisiting the great crater. Groping along, they reached the edge of the precipice and again looked down into the dread abyss, now lighted up by the glowing lava. The whole surface of the plain, where they had observed cracks filled with fire, appeared as though huge cables of molten lava had been stretched across it. While examining these splendid exhibitions, the entire plain, more than one-fourth of the whole crater was suddenly changed into a great lake of fire; its crusts and volcanic cones melted away and mingled with the rolling mass. They now hurried back, astonished at the sight, and shuddering at the recollection that only a few hours had elapsed since they were standing upon the very spot. The next morning they returned to the crater for the last time. Everything was in the same condition: the new lake still glowed with heat, the volcanic cones hurled high in the air red hot stones mixed with ashes and cinders, and accompanied with large volumes of steam, hissing and crackling as it escaped, and the great lake in the south-west was still in an agitated state. The situation of the volcano Kiraua is very remarkable, differing from every other of which we have an account. It is not a truncated mountain, rising high above the surrounding country and visible from every quarter, nor is it seen until the traveller, after crossing an elevated plain near the foot of Mouna Roa, suddenly arrives at a precipice from which he looks down into its dread immensity."

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We have been favoured by the Messrs. Evans, of Pall Mall, with a view of a most interesting rarity, which is about to pass through their hands, namely, the lease of premises in Blackfriars, sold to Shakespeare, and containing his signature: this is one of the signatures of our immortal bard referred to by Malone. The sale will not take place for a fortnight, prior to which we may again refer to the subject, and inform our readers of the days on which it will be on view.

The paragraph quoted last week from the *Devonport Independent*, respecting the meeting of the British Association, was not exactly correct. The London Council took the subject into consideration on Saturday last, when it was arranged, that the meeting should be postponed, but only to the 29th of July, as will be seen in the postscript to the following letter from Mr. Murchison, on the subject of the proposed General Scientific Congress:—

Sir,—As your journal has always contained accounts of anything relating to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, I beg to state that it is not the intention of my colleague, Col. Sabine, and myself, to proceed further in the project of assembling, in the year 1842,

a general meeting of Cultivators of Science, in some central town of Europe, as announced in our Address read at Glasgow (*Athen. No. 684*). On that occasion, we concluded our discourse as General Secretaries, by saying, that if the illustrious Humboldt could be prevailed upon to act as President, scientific men, of all nations, would gladly unite in offering their homage to a man whose life and fortune have been spent in their cause. Convinced that a meeting, so presided over, could not fail to give a fresh impulse to scientific research, we first endeavoured to secure the assent of Baron Humboldt; but that eminent person, in acknowledging the value of the compliment, has assured us that his advanced age and numerous occupations preclude him from accepting such a post. We have, therefore, abandoned, for the present, the project of a General Congress of Science.—I remain, &c., R. L. MURCHISON.

P.S.—As inaccurate statements have appeared in some of the newspapers, respecting the time of meeting at Plymouth, it is right to announce that the Council has finally determined that the opening shall be on the 29th of July, and the close on the 4th of August.

On Monday and Tuesday the works of art of the different candidates for exhibition at the Royal Academy, leave their studios for Trafalgar Square, and the judging eyes of the hanging committee of taste, who sit with Titian—not Old Bailey—caps on their heads, to accept of or reject historical and scriptural attempts, landscapes with figures and without, still-life pieces with or without animation or vigour of pencil, dogs that do all but bark, and portraits that are mere maps of features and fac-similes of faces, or breathing personations that speak the sitter and the artist. Rumour is busy for the seventy-third time with naming and numbering the pictures for exhibition. Wilkie sends two, but we regret to add that they are portraits, Sir Peter Laurie and Sir William Knighton. Calcott, forsaking Fornarina, returns to his old landscape line, and has two ready for exhibition. Landseer, we are sorry to hear, has no more than one, and there is some fear that Mulready will not finish what he is about in time. All this is not very cheering, but still there is something to hope for; Maclise has not been idle, and has the 'Fairie Queen,' not of Spenser, but of Shakspeare, and a 'Hunt the Slipper.' Martin has a 'Hell' and a 'Heaven'—Charles Landseer, 'Andrew Marvell' and the well-known story of the mutton bone.—Webster, three scenes of schools and school-boys, and Redgrave, a story from Addison and another from Goldsmith. In sculpture, Chantrey will send statues of the Bishops of Lichfield and Norwich, and two busts. There appears every chance of room for all pictures making the least approach to mediocrity.

The two *Gainsboroughs* which our last number spoke of as for sale at Messrs. Christie and Manson's brought moderate prices,—620 and 350 guineas. Though far from first-rate specimens, even the larger sum must be deemed small, whether we regard their intrinsic merit as pictures, or their additional and, with many admirers, principal merit, as having been "painted expressly for the Prince of Wales, by whom they were presented to Mrs. Fitzherbert": or yet again their merit compared to that of high-priced modern gaudy productions, whose purchasers remind us of trouts caught with blossoms instead of legitimate bait. As well as we could distinguish these Gainsboroughs, the cheaper one was of better composition and effect: but the other contained a *Market-Card* with *market-people*, and English amateurs seem, like Milton, to set more value on the "human face divine," or even on the brutal, than on Nature's loveliest aspect. An ass in a pound would often be thought to set off a picture of Paradise; peasant-girls with red-lead lips and complexions would make Bagshot Heath outshine the Gardens of Armida. Such is the elevated taste that has come along with mental enlightenment! This by way of parenthesis. A respectable *Conalett* went for but 77 guineas, while of three Sea-pieces, nowise super-excellent, by *Chambers*, two brought 60 guineas a-piece, and the third 81—small triumph for the "Old Masters!" A pair of very clever but chill-toned *Loutherbours* sold at 73 and 70 guineas; still, as we thought, the feeble work (with the most figures) for the higher price. 'Borrowed Plumes,' a large picture by *Lance* representing the fable of the Peacocks and the Daw, was exhibited but a few seasons back; yet of the once-splendid colours we might sing or say with Ophelia "they are dead and gone, lady! they are dead and gone!" We hope the glories of Mr. *Lance's* 'Narcissus,' at the British Institution this year, will not prove equally fugitive. 'Tam

o'Shanter' by *J. P. Knight*, exhibited in 1835 at Somerset House, is as hot as ever it was, yet as dull of general tone as tannin: 40 guineas were given for it. A *Bonington* sketch from the Grand Canal, Venice, obtained 24 guineas; an early and small sketch by *Wilkie* of a lady (Miss Wilkie) at ten, obtained 15; 'Sardanapalus' by *Maclise* obtained 26. Most of the other pictures sold here last Saturday belong to the class of *moveables* rather than *valuable*.

The Duke of Wellington has purchased Mr. Burnet's painting of the Greenwich Pensioners commemorating the battle of Trafalgar, from which his well-known engraving was made.

Among the Easter shows, likely to prove attractive, we must mention Mr. Charles Marshall's *Kinorama*: an Eastern spectacle, in which the scenes of the late conflict between the Sultan and the Pacha, move before the eyes of the gazer: fairly executed, but not more.

Messrs. Sechan, Feuchères, Desplechin, and Dietrich, whose scene-painting gives one of its glories to the French Opera, have opened, at the *ci-devant* Bazaar in St. James's Street, a dioramic representation of Napoleon's second funeral. To those who know Paris, and the Church des Invalides—the three views of which the Exhibition is composed, will give some idea of the aspect of the procession, and the "whereabouts" of its decorations. To the less-instructed spectator, we fear, the pictures will be but unsatisfactory. They are on too small a scale; and the absence of sufficient light causes a confusion in the details which requires memory and familiar acquaintance to be satisfactorily cleared up. Some of the proportions, too, are very incorrect: we must specify the gigantic heads of the persons nearest the spectator, in the interior of the gorgeously-illuminated church.

A grand Synoptic Picture, representing his Imperial and Royal Highness Leopold II., Grand-duke of Tuscany, surrounded by all the *Savans* present at the first meeting of the great Italian Scientific Congress, at Pisa, in 1839, has just appeared in Italy, the work of Signor Milanesio de Casal, a geometrical and professor at Turin,—himself one of the learned body admitted to the recent assembly in the latter city. The Florence and Lucca journals speak of it in terms of high praise.

A correspondent thus writes to us from Berlin:—"Military men are here taking a prominent part in the republic of letters. Lieut. von Orlich, already known for his historical researches, is about to publish a work on the wars in Silesia in 1740-1745, in which the Great Frederick won his spurs. In searching over the archives of Dessau, he has stumbled on a mass of interesting documents in reference to this subject, which in quantity and value far exceeded his most sanguine expectations. He has discovered, in short, no less than two thousand autograph letters of Frederick the Great, written in German, to the old Prince Leopold of Dessau, and the Crown Prince Leopold, which relate wholly to the campaigns in question, and are full of important matter. He met also with one thousand other letters, by the same hand, directed to Prince Moritz of Anhalt Dessau on the seven years' war. These documents have remained sealed up ever since 1761, and the contents are said to be extremely instructive and interesting. I am told, for instance, that they contain descriptions of the various battles, accompanied, in some instances, by plans of them, drawn by the King himself. Among the most valuable may be mentioned those to Leopold written before the Battle of Kesselsdorf, in Saxony, which caused Maria Theresa to conclude the peace in 1745. We discover, from these, the grave misunderstandings which reigned between the two princes of Dessau, and that it was only at the King's express command the elder ventured the battle alluded to, in which, however, he was victorious. The work is to appear on the 10th of April, the anniversary of the Battle of Mollwitz, in which the young King appeared for the first time, though merely as a spectator. The author, as I learn, has treated the subject entirely in a military point of view. Another important work, just appeared, are maps of Asia Minor, by Baron Finck, Mühlbach, and Moltke, the Prussian officers who served in the Turkish army in 1839. The last-named gentleman is the author of a well-written work, 'Letters on the Occurrences and State of Tur-

key during position of of explor to the tra played in pirates th tion of Moltke, a The Felix Sav and Prof Calleg de of M. An nivals, M to the ch Political M. Jul paper, as Literature has receiv of the Im services to language Sublime M. M. Lisa latest mus through th shower, wi tropolis were perf one of his are four, Philharmoni scries as by nervous success. Comique, precisely a word a Some of tioned n the reason playing at Mr. Blagru a very agr by Pesca, better than they often di Tito' v which, be more acco strenuous digl—a week, and with a gre tacle: we in as spirit Shakspear fully and Mr. Balfe use the str the French hate no a buoyancy works like unnoiced report spec BRI The Galler of BRITISH in ill Five T Will be R on a new NITYTY, in the South Own from T Under the MET.—The ARCADE—s most source a long cele Festival is in judge of i under addi means, Fy Admission, J half-past KINROA TION, 121, I WALL'S (G Lane) KINE the Diorama gone feet; Ticker, Syri Admission, in the Morni

key during the years 1835-39.' From the peculiar position of these officers, they had rare opportunities of exploring regions as yet but imperfectly known to the traveller. For a whole year they were employed in taking surveys. The passage of the Euphrates through the Taurus chain, and the description of the Kurdish fortresses explored by Captain Molke, alone will prove especially interesting.

The French papers announce the death of M. Félix Savart, a member of the Academy of Sciences, and Professor of Experimental Philosophy at the Collège de France.—They mention, too, the election of M. Amédée Thierry by a large majority over his rivals, M. Salvador and M. Rosse-Saint-Hilaire, to the chair vacant in the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, by the death of M. Bignon.

M. Jules Janin, known to the readers of this paper, as the author of the Essay on the French Literature of the 19th century, (see vol. for 1837) has received from the Sultan the Cross in brilliants of the Imperial Order of Nitscham Itihar, for his services to Reschid Pacha, in his study of the French language and literature, when ambassador of the Sublime Porte, at the Court of the Tuileries.

M. Liset's concert, this day week, has been the latest musical event of Paris of any special interest: though that city is now undergoing the concert-shower, which descends a month later on our metropolis. At the sixth concert of the *Conservatoire* were performed Beethoven's choral symphony, and one of his less known overtures to "Fidelio." There are four, only two of which have yet reached our Philharmonic. M. Ernst, too, whom every one describes as an admirable violinist, when not disabled by nervousness, played at this concert without much success. "Le Pendu," a one-act farce at the Opéra Comique, the music by M. Clappon, seems to be precisely one of the trifles adverted to above, not worth a second word, and only tolerable in Paris.

Some of the music of the week can only be mentioned *en passant*, and to bring up our chronicle of the season till Easter. Miss Sterling's clever organ-playing at the Apollonicon, and the last meeting of Mr. Biagrove's quartett party among the number: a very agreeable feature of their Concert was a work by Fesca, which suits the style of the players far better than the bolder and more imaginative works they often perform. At Drury Lane, "La Clemenza di Tito" was performed on Wednesday; a work which, being written for Italian singers, demands more accomplished vocalists than any of the present strenuous and energetic German corps. Herr Staudigl—a powerful addition—is announced for Easter week, and there are rumours of 'Oberon,' to be given with a great luxury of fairy work, in the way of spectacle: we shall be contented, if the music—which is as spiritual, according to its order, as the poetry of Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream,"—be faithfully and delicately rendered. At the English Opera Mr. Balfé's "Kiolanthé" has been "backed up" (to use the stage phrase) by a very flimsy operetta from the French, "La Double Échelle," translated. We have no actors, as yet, who can make up by their loquacity for the musical flimsiness and poverty of works like this. A new opera by Mr. Macfarren is announced for Easter week: of the music of which report speaks very favourably.

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PALL MALL.

The Gallery for the EXHIBITION and SALE of the Works of BRITISH ARTISTS is OPEN DAILY, from Ten in the Morning till Five in the Evening. Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s. from Ten till Five.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

THE DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

Will be RE-OPENED MONDAY NEXT, the 24th instant, with a new Exhibition, representing the SHRINE OF THE NATIVITY, at Bethlehem, and the CATHEDRAL OF AUCH, in the South of France. Both Pictures painted by M. Renoux.

Under the Patronage of HER MAJESTY and PRINCE ALBERT.—THE ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE, ARCADE-STREET, WEST STRAND.—In addition to all the local sources of attraction for which this Institution has been a long celebrated, Mr. C. Payne's Patent Process of Salting Preserves is now being shown daily, and visitors are enabled to judge of its efficiency, meat being cooked on the spot; excellent additions have been made in every department; Cosmorama, Pyrotechnics, Biocroscope, Steam-Gun, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s. Children half price. Open from half-past Ten till half-past Five daily.

THE DIORAMA.—New and interesting PICTORIAL EXHIBITION, at Pall Mall.—EVERY DAY, CHARLES MALL'S of the Theatres Royal Covent Garden and Drury Lane KINORAMA, being a combination of the Panorama and Diorama effects; painted on a surface of upwards of 10,000 square feet; delineations of the most interesting portions of Turkey, Syria, and Egypt, from Constantinople to Grand Cairo.—Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 1s. 6d. Open daily from Eleven in the Morning until Ten in the Evening.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

March 22.—G. B. Greenough, Esq., President, in the chair.—The following papers were read:—

1. 'Some account of a race of Indians inhabiting the Isthmus of Panama.'—Between Chepo and a "Visia," called Fuerte Terrible, commence the hunting-grounds of two great nations of Indians. Those more generally inhabiting the Atlantic side of the Isthmus, are the Mandingo Indians and others; the most numerous, called the Beilano or Bayamon Indians, live along the Balano and its sources. This latter race is, as yet, pure and unmixed, exceedingly fierce and warlike, but intelligent and of generous nature. They have never been subdued by the Spaniards. It is said, in a document preserved in the Archives of Cartagena, "that these barbarians were some of the most savage and warlike, yet intelligent, of the South American Indians; and it was imagined they were a branch from the same stock as those inhabiting the North Pacific shore of the Mexican territory. Whilst confessing that these people had foiled the many attempts of the Spaniards to conquer them, it was, curiously enough, observed, that this obstinate and successful resistance was not so much the effect of their own want of loyalty, but was to be attributed rather to the treacherous councils and actual aid of those "hereticos los Ingleses," who, by their mischievous tutoring, had encouraged, and even urged them to set themselves up in open defiance against their lawful masters. But it was not the English who marred the conquest of the Spaniards, but the native bravery and independent character of the Indians themselves, added to the peculiar difficulties of their country, and the dreadful "subatan" and poisoned arrow. To this time, however, Englishman is a word always welcome to the ear of the Ballanos, and is a passport of safety among them; while that of Spaniard is a sure passport to the other world. This friendly feeling for the English dates, it would appear, from the time of the Buccaneers, in the seventeenth century. Together with this account of the Ballano Indians, of which we have given but a brief notice, Col. Lloyd presented an old, and somewhat coarsely executed MS. map of the Isthmus of Panama, obtained in the country, through the good offices of a priest, with whom the Colonel was on friendly terms, and who stated that it had belonged to the Spanish government, and was compiled from the observations that could be collected of this difficult country, either through its own officers, or the priests and missionaries. It had eventually been rescued from the flames during the time of the Spanish governor "Oro." From these circumstances, and the great difficulty of getting at any documents, which the jealousy of the old Spaniards studiously kept concealed or destroyed, the present map ought to be considered of some value, and was accordingly presented by Col. Lloyd to the Society.

2. 'Notes on Ghilaun,' by Mr. Abbott.—This gentleman visited Ghilaun in the month of February of last year, and remained about twenty days at Resht, its capital. Ghilaun is a narrow strip of country, situate on the south-western side of the Caspian, and inclosed by a lofty range of mountains, measuring from 6,000 to 9,000 feet above the sea's level. It is about 144 miles in length and 50 in width: but in some parts the mountains, which occupy probably half the superficies of the province, approach to within five or six miles of the sea,—and in the northernmost portion of the country still nearer. Almost the whole of the province is covered with wood. The quantity of rain which falls, the want of drainage, the dense forests and luxuriant vegetation render the whole of the level country a morass; the climate is accordingly unhealthy, and to strangers almost fatal in the hot months. From the beginning of June to the end of September, the flat country is reputed to be almost uninhabitable by a European or other stranger to the climate. The language of Ghilaun Proper is the Gheelaik, a dialect of the Persian, which is spoken with greater rapidity and is less sonorous than the Persian of other parts. The Talish district, of which the Russians now possess the largest division, bounds Ghilaun on the north; the inhabitants are represented as rude and brutal, much given to plunder and murder,

but are a hardy and active race, especially those who live in the highlands. Their language is another dialect of the Persian. The principal places in Ghilaun are Resht, its capital, Enzele, Fomen, and Lahijan. The latter is not greatly inferior to Resht itself, which contains about 3,000 houses, and from 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. Resht may be called a clean town: its bazars are extensive, though not showy; the chief display in them consists in Russian hardware, glassware, and earthenware, and some English manufactures. The streets are paved with small stones; but passengers are drenched in rainy weather by the torrents which pour down upon them from the projecting roofs of the houses. The jungle which covers Ghilaun reaches to the very houses of Resht; these are generally of burnt brick and tiled, and are usually composed of a ground floor and upper story. Building is very dear. The caravanserais are numerous, but are not fit places for a European. In the country, the houses are much scattered, and seldom present the appearance of regular villages. They are usually neat and clean, and the floors covered with beautiful mats. The population of Ghilaun is small, being little more than 100,000. The plague of 1830 is said to have carried off full two-thirds of the former population, and from this calamity the country has never recovered itself. Many thousand labourers, from the Khalkhal districts, find employment in Ghilaun in the winter, by performing the hard labour, for which the weak and sickly constitution of the natives of Ghilaun incapacitates them. The natives of Ghilaun are notorious for bigotry, ignorance, and prejudice; their food is simple and light, it consists principally of rice and fish, both of which are produced in the province, and the latter in great abundance. There is also plenty of fine poultry and horned cattle. Wild fruit grows everywhere in abundance, but none is cultivated except oranges, lemons, and limes, which were extensively cultivated till a few years ago, when nearly all the trees were destroyed by an extraordinarily severe winter, and the fruit is now scarce and dear. The vines are allowed to climb the trees of the forest. Neither fat nor butter is used in cookery, nor is any sort of bread eaten except in the towns, the people generally believing it to be injurious to their health in this climate. Horses are fed with rice in the husk, but those who can afford it give them barley. The soil of Ghilaun appears to be a rich vegetable stratum, on one of sand, stone, and pebbles. It appears probable from this, and from the marine shells frequently found underground, that the low country was at one time covered by the sea. The Flora of the province is exceedingly rich. Amongst the trees oak and beech are in abundance, but the former is seldom of great girth. In the woods there are tigers, panthers, wild boars, the jackal, marten, &c.—in the rivers, the otter. Of birds there is great variety; and among others the pheasant is very plentiful, as also the woodcock in its season. The lakes, reedy islands, and marshes abound in wild fowl of many kinds. In summer the swarms of goats and flies render the country far from agreeable. The Russian government has had for some years past a Consul-general residing at Resht; his commission extends to Mazandaran, and he receives a salary of about 6000*l.* a year, besides which he probably receives large sums in fees. The present Consul is a man intimately acquainted with Persia, its customs, people, and language, and appears to have gained the good will of those generally amongst whom he resides; his influence is great, and he carries on energetically the duties of his office. The people were at once astonished and awed at beholding a foreign agent despatch their governor in chains, about three years ago, to answer at Tehran for his conduct towards a Russian subject. Since this act of energy and severity his influence has become great, and it may be supposed that he can now do almost as he pleases. The Caspian appears to be very shallow on the south-west side for many furlongs from the sea, and I observed, says Mr. Abbott, many single-masted vessels riding at anchor, securely, ten or fifteen miles out at sea. The Russian government sends a vessel every year to survey the coasts of the Caspian, as the soundings are continually altering. The Caspian is considered a stormy sea. Late admeasurements of the Russian *savants* gave 96 French feet for the depression of the Caspian below the Black Sea. The

waters of the Caspian appeared to Mr. A. to contain very little salt. Enzelee contains from 300 to 400 houses and shops, and is the only seaport on the coast of Ghilaun. It is situated on the extreme point of a tongue of land about 15 miles in length, and in some parts only 150 yards broad. The anchorage is within this tongue of land. Ships of 250 tons burthen, partly laden, can lie close in shore. There is ample accommodation in the port for all the vessels which visit it, but the larger class are obliged to discharge part of their cargoes before they can cross the bar at the entrance of the lagoon, the extent of which is about 27 miles by 18. Its saltness is scarcely perceptible, and indeed the boatmen commonly drink it. It is said that about 10 or 12 vessels of the burthen of 200, 250, or 300 tons, annually arrive at Enzelee from Astracan; and from Baká, Salian, and Lankeran, about 50 or 60 large boats of various rigs. The boats from Baká are loaded with naphtha, the consumption for burning being very great. It is extremely cheap,—about 8d. the thirteen pounds. The Russian mercantile marine in the Caspian is said to amount to about 1000 vessels of all descriptions. The road from Purée Bazaar to Resht lies through the jungle, and is so bad, that although the distance is only about five or six miles, it takes three or four hours to perform it, with a horse lightly burdened. In conclusion, Mr. Abbott observes, that though Ghilaun is in wretched hands, and kept in the most shameful state of neglect, it is, in proportion to its extent, the richest province in Persia. Its inhabitants appear to possess a great deal of wealth. The government derives a yearly revenue of 200,000 tomans, or 100,000 sterling, from this province, including the customs and rent of the fisheries, which together amount to about 22,500*l.*, but probably half as much again is paid in voluntary contributions by the principal people of the province to the court. In addition to the statement which we have thus abridged, Mr. Abbott has entered largely into the details of the commerce of the country, and the cultivation of silk—a staple of the province.

Capt. Graves, R.N., then gave an account of his surveying labours on the West coast of Asia Minor, and among the islands of the Archipelago, from which it appears that the coast in question is now most accurately laid down, as well as the topography of many places inland, to a considerable extent. The Gulf of Kos has by this survey had thirty miles added to it. Numerous maps, plans, and drawings in illustration were exhibited. The Captain is on the eve of leaving England for the completion of this survey.

A voltatype plate, and the original engraved copper-plate, of a plan of the Port of Concepcion, on the coast of Chili, was exhibited at the meeting, and copies printed from both plates presented to the Society. This is, we believe, the first example of Voltatyping to the purposes of geography. The plate was 24 inches by 12; and the closest inspection could not detect which impression was from the original plate, and which from the voltatype. Some specimens of embossed plans were also exhibited; and we understood that plans of London and of England will be published, prepared in this way.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

At the Anniversary Meeting, the following gentlemen were elected the Officers and Council for the ensuing year:—

President,—R. I. Murchison, Esq. *Vice Presidents*,—Prof. G. B. Daubeny, Dr. Fitton, C. Lyell, jun. Esq., and Rev. Prof. Whewell. *Secretaries*,—E. H. Bunbury, Esq., and W. J. Hamilton, Esq. *Foreign Secretary*,—H. T. De la Beche, Esq. *Treasurer*,—John Taylor, Esq. *Council*,—A. Aikin, Esq., R. A. C. Austen, Esq., F. Baily, Esq., Rev. Prof. Buckland, Sir Francis Chantrey, C. Darwin, Esq., Sir P. G. Egerton, Bart. M.P., Earl of Enniskillen, G. B. Greenough, Esq., L. Horner, Esq., Dr. G. A. Mantell, D. Sharpe, Esq., Rev. Prof. Sedgwick, and J. Smith, Esq.

After the usual Reports had been read, Dr. Buckland, previously to retiring from the chair, announced that the Gold Wollaston Medal had been awarded to M. Adolphe Brongniart, for his discoveries and publications in Fossil Botany; and on delivering the Medal to Mr. De la Beche, the Foreign Secretary, to transmit to M. Brongniart, Dr. Buckland said:—

"It is my pleasing duty to place in your hands, as Foreign Secretary, this Gold Medal, which the President and Council have awarded to one of our Foreign Members, M. A. Brongniart, for his discoveries and publications in Fossil Botany.

The name of Brongniart has been honourably associated with the progress of Mineralogy and Geology since the beginning of the present century, and in the person of M. Alexandre Brongniart, the world has long owed deep scientific obligations to the distinguished father of a son, now equally distinguished in the Chair of Botany at the same great national establishment with himself. As the colleague of Cuvier in his investigations and descriptions of the environs of Paris, and the author of publications of pre-eminent merit and utility in Mineralogy, Geology and Palæontology, M. Alexandre Brongniart has had no small share in directing and advancing the progress of the many and great discoveries relating to the physical history of the earth, which characterize the age in which we live. His son now appears before us with hereditary claims to our gratitude, illustrating the Flora of the ancient world by the riches of his knowledge of Modern Botany; as his father long ago instructed us as to its ancient Fauna, in the important department of Mineral Conchology. I will not refer to the ancient works of Scheuchzer and Knorr, written in times when the methods of botanical investigation had not assumed that physiological character which now enables us to establish the analogies between living and fossil species. We owe to Baron Schlottheim the first attempt made a quarter of a century ago, to systematize, by comparison with existing families of plants, the obscure and curious fossil vegetable remains that crowd the strata of the coal formation. Count Sternberg quickly followed him with his more enlarged illustrations of the same subject, founded on the fossil plants of the coal field of Bohemia. I can never forget the feeling I experienced, almost twenty years ago, when I, for the first time, heard from the lips of M. Adolphe Brongniart, then a youth visiting Oxford, a summary of those enlarged and enlightened views respecting Geological Botany, which, in 1828, he published in his celebrated 'Prodromus of the History of Fossil Vegetables,' being the introduction to his great work, which, from that time, has become, and still continues, the register of his progressive discoveries; illustrating by figures and descriptive comparisons the analogies between living families of the vegetable kingdom and the remains of extinct plants, which clothed the surface of a former world. M. Adolphe Brongniart had, even at that time, arrived at a series of grand and philosophic generalizations, which have since been abundantly confirmed, as to a fourfold change in the character of fossil plants, concurrent with analogous changes in the fossil remains of extinct animals. He had ascertained that the Flora of the coal formation was different from that of the new red sandstone series, and this again distinct from the Flora of the oolite formation, whilst the plants in the tertiary strata differ from the three preceding series, and approximate most nearly to existing vegetables. The dominant types, in the first of these series, he showed to be ferns, and gigantic Equisetaceæ, and Lycopodiaceæ, indicating a climate intensely hot and humid. In the second, he had found the prevailing types to be Ferns, Calamites, Conifera, and Fucoids, indicating a less extreme condition of climate than the first. In the third, he had ascertained that Cycadeæ, Conifera, and Zosterites, predominate, and evidence a climate not very different from that of our modern tropics. In the fourth, that the same families occur with those of our existing Flora, and in nearly the same proportions, and indicate a climate approaching to that which now prevails in the Mediterranean. It was not till 1831, that a publication was commenced on this subject, in the Fossil Flora of Great Britain, by Professor Lindley and Mr. Hutton, which is about to be continued by Professor Henslow and Mr. Hutton. The student in Fossil Botany has, of late years, also derived most valuable and liberal assistance from Mr. Robert Brown, the companion of Flinders in his voyage to Australia, and the author of the *Prodromus of the Flora of New Holland*, to whom the world has long consigned a place of the highest distinction among living botanists. Supported by such auxiliaries, both in England and on the continent, Geology is now rapidly advancing its discoveries as to the Fossil Flora of a former world, and daily detecting the analogies which show these extinct systems of organization to have had strict and harmonious, though distant and marvellously

varied, relations to the vegetables which adorn the present earth. I sincerely congratulate my friend and colleague, M. Alexandre Brongniart, on the honours of his son, who has already made such great progress in the same successful career of science which he has himself so long and so usefully pursued; and whom he has lived, and, I trust, will yet much longer live, to see maintaining, in the department of Botany, a reputation not less brilliant than that which his father has, for almost half a century, enjoyed in Mineralogy, Palæontology, and Geology."

Mr. De la Beche, on receiving the medal, expressed the gratification he felt in being the official channel of transmitting it to the distinguished person to whom it had been so deservedly awarded. He stated that he had been desired to make known to the Society the high sense which M. Adolphe Brongniart entertained of the honour which the Council had conferred upon him by the award of the Wollaston medal; and that it would encourage him to new exertions in the field of Fossil Botany. Mr. De la Beche congratulated the Society on their awards to distinguished foreigners, as tending to show that the Society are animated by the sole desire of marking the high value they entertain of the labours of distinguished persons, without reference to the artificial divisions into which the world might be divided; and that men of science constituted but one brotherhood.

Dr. Buckland then commenced his address, including notices of the following deceased Fellows and Foreign Members:—The Rev. Dr. Cooke, Mr. John Gibson, Mr. R. Ferguson, Dr. Laird, Mr. Richard Bright, Duke of Bedford, Mr. R. Seale, M. Volz, Prof. Blumenbach, M. Brochant de Villiers, and Mr. Maclure.

STATISTICAL SOCIETY.

March 15.—The anniversary meeting took place this day, Sir Charles Lemon, Bart., V.P. in the chair.

It appeared from the Report that the attention of the Council was directed to the subject of the decennial Census of the United Kingdom, which is to be taken in the present year, and it appointed a committee to report upon the best mode of conducting the enumeration, and upon the nature of the information which it seemed desirable to collect. Copies of the Report, drawn up by the above committee, were transmitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and other influential members of the legislature, and the result was, that a Bill which had been previously brought into the House of Commons, in which it was proposed to take the census according to the imperfect system adopted on previous occasions, was withdrawn, and a new Bill, in which the principal recommendations of the committee were adopted, was introduced in its stead, and passed. This Report, and its consequences, was the only worthy subject referred to; but the Report had done duty before. It figured in the last Annual Report, and was published some ten or twelve months since in the Journal of the Society. We are bound, however, to add that the Council, which must be best informed on the subject, seemed extremely well satisfied with the result of its labours, found many subjects of congratulation, and among others the extending reputation of the Society!

The following noblemen and gentlemen were elected as the officers and Council for the ensuing year:—

President, Viscount Sandon, M.P.—*Treasurer*, G. R. Porter, Esq.—*Honorary Secretaries*, J. Clendinning Esq., M.D., J. Fletcher, Esq., R. W. Rawson, Esq.—*Council*, C. Ansell, Esq., C. Babbage, Esq., Rt. Hon. Sturges Bourne, J. Bowring, Esq., L.L.D., J. Clendinning, Esq., M.D., Goode, Esq., Rev. E. W. Edgell, W. Farr, Esq., Rt. Hon. Earl Fitzwilliam, J. Fletcher, Esq., F. H. Goldsmid, Esq., W. Greig, Esq., W. A. Guy, Esq., M.D., H. Hallam, Esq., J. Heywood, Esq., L. Horner, Esq., Sir C. Lemon, Bart., G. C. Lewis, Esq., N. Lister, Esq., M.D., Rt. Hon. Earl Lovelace, Rt. Hon. Holt Mackenzie, H. Merivale, Esq., G. R. Porter, Esq., R. W. Rawson, Esq., H. Reeve, Esq., Viscount Sandon, M.P., R. A. Slaney, M.P., Lieut.-Colonel Sykes, T. Tooke, Esq., Major A. M. Tulloch, J. Wilson, Esq.

An ordinary meeting was held in the evening, Rt. Hon. Viscount Sandon, President, in the chair.

A paper was read 'On the Mortality of Lunatics,' by William Farr, Esq.—The object of the paper was to compare the mortality of the lunatics, in two of the largest public institutions of the country, with that of the licensed proprietary houses, and to trace

the causes, by various methods of statistical analysis. The condition of lunatics in the country has, within the present century, attracted much public attention, and in 1807-15-16 and 1827 the management of the asylums was investigated by committees of the House of Commons. Many abuses were exposed, but still many inquiries remain to be instituted. The persons of unsound mind in England amount to several thousands. They are of middle age, frequently mothers or fathers of families, and are of all conditions and ranks of life; 494 lunatics confined under the crown possess property yielding an annual income of 327,154*l.*; 6,402 idiots, and 7,265 lunatics have been returned to Parliament as paupers. Great improvements have taken place in the treatment of lunatics. At the Hanwell Asylum no strait waistcoats, or other instruments of personal coercion have been used since the 21st September, 1839. The experiment was first tried at Lincoln, and it is now contended by persons of experience and ability, that personal coercion should be abolished; however, gentlemen of equal humanity remain of opinion, that the strait waistcoat should still be employed in the paroxysms of mania; and it may be well to observe that asylums not only differ essentially in the extent to which restraint is carried, but in the space allotted to patients, their employments, food, and medical treatment. The cost of criminal lunatics at Bethlehem is 15*s.* a week; of idiots or lunatics in the workhouses, 2*s.* 10*d.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* a week. Some of the asylums are under the control of the visiting justices, others are visited by the metropolitan commissioners. The hospitals of Bethlehem and St. Luke's are not visited at all, but are managed by the officers and governors; and a great many lunatics are confined in workhouses by the parish authorities. The number of lunatics and dangerous idiots under confinement in Middlesex, Surrey, and Kent, within the jurisdiction of the metropolitan commission, is about 3,100. They were thus distributed in 1839: in Hanwell 834, Bethlehem 299, St. Luke's 240, Guy's 24; and in 34 licensed houses 1,713. The London workhouses contain a considerable number of idiots and lunatics, and exclusive of the above, 3,100 individuals are imprisoned as lunatics in the public institutions of the metropolis; 7 in 10 of the lunatics fall upon the public for support. The Hanwell Asylum was opened in 1831, and the number admitted up to September, 1840, was, 1,013 males, and 1061 females; of them 1,171 were discharged; 449 recovered, 66 were relieved, 656 died, and 858 remained in the asylum. More than half the patients die, and more than one-third are cured. The average number of residents has been about 589, or 250 males, and 339 females; and the annual mortality of the men was 16 per cent., of the women 9 per cent. and of both sexes 12 per cent. It will be observed that nearly equal numbers of men and women are admitted, but that the number of women resident is 36 per cent. greater than the number of men; the reason of this is, because women remain there about 6 years on an average, and men nearly 3.7 years. Men are discharged more rapidly than women, both by death and recovery; 11 men per cent. were discharged annually cured, and only 8 women. The number of lunatics admitted into the licensed houses during six years, ending in 1839, was 5,386, and the annual mortality per cent., as compared to that at Hanwell, was as 130 to 100. The annual mortality of both male and female paupers in the licensed houses, was twice as great as the mortality of paupers at Hanwell, and twice as great as the mortality of other lunatics in the licensed houses. It appears by the tables, that the mortality among lunatics increases in proportion to the number collected together, for in each of the four large houses, which contained on an average 265 patients, the annual mortality was 19 per cent., while in the small houses, which contained 17 lunatics on an average, the mortality was only 9 per cent. What is the mortality among lunatics in favourable circumstances? Is insanity a fatal disease? Upon the latter question, there has been considerable diversity of opinion. Of 213 lunatics admitted at Hanwell, 15 were aged 60 and upwards, 1 was between 75 and 80, and 58 in 783 had been labouring under the disorder between 20 and 50 years. An action was brought, in 1835, at the York Assizes, to recover from the Providence Assurance Company 2,000*l.*,

insured upon the life of a clergyman. The judge told the jury, that they had to consider whether insanity had a tendency to shorten life? If insanity had such a tendency, they must find for the defendant; if not, for the plaintiff. The jury found for the latter, on the ground that insanity had no tendency to shorten life! No means at present exist of ascertaining the mortality of lunatics at large; but the mortality of lunatics in asylums, is much higher than the mortality of the general population, and the author of the paper conceives, that the excess cannot be principally ascribed, although it may partially, to the confinement, the unwholesomeness, or the usages of mad-houses. The mean age of lunatics in asylums is about 35 to 40. The average age of the patients admitted at Bethlehem (1830-40) was 36 years, and the mean age of 213 admitted at Hanwell was 36*½*. The mortality of the ages between 30 and 40 in England and Wales is 1.2 per cent., and between 40 and 50, 1.5 per cent. At a corresponding age in cities, the mortality is not more than 2 per cent. annually. Now the annual mortality at Bethlehem, where dangerous cases are strictly excluded, was 9 per cent. At Gloucester, one of the county asylums, where the treatment is highly successful, the annual mortality is 7 per cent. The annual mortality of severe cases of insanity cannot be less than 6 per cent., so that the mortality is three times greater among lunatics, than among the general population at the same age. It has been shown that the difference between the mortality of the better class of patients and that of paupers is very great, for while that of the former has been 12 per cent., the latter has been 21, and at one licensed house 27 per cent., a higher rate of mortality than was experienced by the population of London when the plague rendered its habitations desolate. To what is this excessive mortality to be ascribed,—to the disease, or to the treatment? Mr. Farr states the chief causes to which the mortality may be attributed—which, however, we can only briefly notice. The visiting justices at Hanwell report as an extraordinary and disgraceful fact, that numbers of patients are sent into the asylum, as it would seem, to die. Of 656 deaths, 64 died within a month after admission, and of 834 patients in the same asylum in 1839, about 655 had been in other asylums or workhouses for considerable periods; many cases were admitted in the chronic stages of insanity, but this will not account for a high rate of mortality annually, for the latter is greater in the acute than in the chronic stage of insanity. Thus, at the hospitals of St. Luke and Bethlehem, the annual mortality among the class called "curables," was 11 per cent., and only 6 among incurables or chronic cases. At Hanwell, under the same circumstances, the proportion was 12 to 8 per cent. A return in the Hanwell Report shows the numbers admitted every separate year into the asylum, from 1831 to 1840, and of these the number discharged, and relieved, or dead; by this it appears that the numbers relieved were 14 per cent. of those cured and relieved; and that the annual rate of mortality in the first half year was nearly 25 per cent., while between the 5th and 8th years after admission into the asylum the rate of mortality was only 7 per cent. The rate of mortality in a unit of time, increases as the malady advances up to a certain point, and then declines regularly, in all diseases which have been hitherto investigated arithmetically. In cholera, the rate of mortality is highest between the eighteenth and twenty-fourth hours; in small-pox, the mortality is highest between the tenth and fifteenth day; in consumption, the rate of mortality appears to be greatest between the sixth and ninth month. Insanity is regulated by analogous laws, and if an asylum contained persons in the first year and a half of the disease, the mortality would be 18 per cent., while it would be 8 per cent. in any asylum for chronic cases. In Hanwell it was 17 per cent. during the first three years, and 10 per cent. during the last three. Thus the great rate of mortality of paupers in the licensed houses may be in some measure accounted for, when it is borne in mind that they seldom remain more than a year and a half in the houses. From the various reports and facts made use of by Mr. Farr in drawing up the paper, he has constructed a table of mortality and recovery for lunatics, from

which we derive the following conclusions:—If 1000 lunatics are taken at the stage of the disease corresponding to the time of admission at Hanwell, 217 will be discharged; 108 as recovered or relieved, and 109 as dead in the half year following, leaving 783 to enter upon the second period, to be reduced year by year, until at the end of 74 years only 310 remain. The range of the present series of observations extends no further, but the relative proportions of recoveries and deaths remain nearly as 88 to 222. The probable future duration of insanity is 24 years from the time of admission, and the chances are 272 to 105, that a lunatic will not recover five years after admission. The Bethlehem Hospital differs essentially from the Hanwell Asylum, and the majority of licensed houses, in the stricter selection of patients for admission. No individual can be admitted who has been insane for more than twelve months; no lunatics discharged uncured from other hospitals; no idiots, or persons afflicted with palsy, epileptic, or convulsive fits, or suffering from any dangerous disease. Notwithstanding these instructions in the admission papers, the petitions of 58 out of 311 who applied in 1836, were rejected. The patients are not allowed to remain longer than one year. 253 lunatics admitted in 1836, had been insane 83 days on an average, and 117 had been insane less than a month. It would be most interesting to determine the mortality of this class of lunatics for twelve months; but where dangerous symptoms come on at Bethlehem, the patients are dismissed as improper objects. Thus, of 3,026 discharges in ten years, 839 were dismissed uncured, 483 as improper objects, and 145 dead. A great number of the improper objects would inevitably die after they left Bethlehem; paralysis, however slight, is the forerunner of death in the insane; and of 210 dismissed as improper objects, 87 were paralytic, 59 sick and weak, 24 epileptic, 4 apoplectic, 2 had fits, and 28 were idiotic. The lunatics at Bethlehem are divided into three classes—curables, incurables, and criminals. The annual rate of mortality among the former was 8.8 per cent.; among the incurables 4.7 per cent.; and among the criminals 3.5 per cent. During thirteen years, 71 criminal lunatics were admitted at Bethlehem (56 men, 15 women); of these, 26 died, 2 escaped, and 23 recovered. The author is of opinion, that several of the criminals, such as Oxford, cannot properly be said to labour under insanity, in the sense of a disease, but rather under a congenital misdevelopment of the brain. The mortality at Bethlehem is considerably reduced by excluding dangerous cases, and dismissing the patients on the verge of death as "improper objects." It is difficult, under these circumstances, to account for the death of 9 or 10 per cent. annually, upon any other supposition than that the mortality is high at the early stage of the disease in Bethlehem. The paper concluded with some observations on the existing laws with regard to the management of lunatics, which Mr. Farr considered to be very imperfect. To deprive a man of his personal liberty, or to turn a lunatic loose on society, are acts involving great responsibility; yet the former can be sent as a lunatic to the county asylum by two Justices of the Peace, on the certificate of any physician, surgeon, or apothecary, asserting that the said person appears to be insane of mind. There are 2,780 pauper lunatics confined under these certificates in the county asylums; and there are 1,389 lunatics and 7,007 idiots under the care of parish officers, as in-door or out-door paupers. The liberation of lunatics takes place under no better regulation; and while Chancery lunatics are, in the words of Lord Lyndhurst, "well cared for, and, above all, watched, to observe the least glimmering of returning sanity, in order that the parties may not be detained one day longer than is necessary," pauper lunatics are discharged at the discretion of the visiting Justices from the county asylums, and by the parish officers from workhouses. Many cases of abuse have occurred under the present system, which requires extensive alterations; and Mr. Farr remarks, that no person should be placed under restraint as a lunatic in establishments of any kind, who has not been examined by a public officer practically acquainted with insanity. Added to this, the sex and age, the stage, form, and complications of insanity, should be registered on entering and leaving the several institutions by impartial public

officers; and such a system, carried on upon a uniform plan, would enable the statist to discover the causes of insanity, the laws which regulate its course, the circumstances by which it is influenced, and avert its visitation, or mitigate the severity of the disease; and perhaps, in a later age, save mankind from its inflictions: or, if this cannot be, at least insure the sufferers merciful treatment.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—The first meeting was held on the 30th of March, to receive the Report of the Provisional Committee formerly appointed. Upwards of seventy Members were reported to have joined the Society, including the most distinguished chemists both of London and the provinces. Regulations for the government of the Society were adopted, and the following gentlemen appointed as office-bearers and Council:—President, Prof. Graham; Vice-Presidents, Professors Brande and Daniell, Messrs. J. T. Cooper and R. Phillips; Treasurer, A. Aikin, Esq.; Secretaries, Messrs. E. F. Teschemacher and R. Warington.—*Council*, Dr. Thomas Clark, Prof. J. Cumming, Dr. C. Daubeny, Messrs. T. Everitt, T. Griffiths, W. R. Grove, H. Hennell, G. Lowe, Prof. W. H. Millar, W. H. Peppys, R. Porrett, and Dr. G. O. Rees.—The first Meeting for the reading of papers will take place on Tuesday, the 13th of April, at 8 p.m., and be continued once a fortnight. With the permission of the Society of Arts, the Meetings will be held, for the present, in their rooms, in the Adelphi.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY.—*March 19.*—J. Reynolds, Esq., Treasurer, in the chair.—Mr. Harbert exhibited a specimen of *Saponaria vaccaria*, discovered by him in September last, in a very fine loamy soil at Winterbourne, near Newbury, Berkshire. Mr. T. Sansom exhibited living specimens of *Crocus vernus* collected at Horsey (Ray's habitat). Mr. H. O. Stephens presented specimens of fungi. Mr. A. Wallis continued his paper 'On the Flora of Essex.'

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

SAT.	Asiatic Society	Eight.
MON.	Entomological Society	Eight.
	Horticultural Society	Three.
TUES.	Institution of Civil Engineers	Eight.
	Architectural Society	Six.
	Linnean Society	Eight.
	Astronomical Society	Eight.
WED.	Geological Society	p. Eight.
	Society of Arts	Eight.
THUR.	Royal Society of Literature	Four.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—So small is our esteem for Bellini's 'Beatrice di Tenda,' that it would not be fair to judge of the new importations—Signora Granchi, and Signor de Bassini—who have made their first appearances here in music so entirely devoid of worth or colour. The lady seems to possess a moderately strong *soprano* voice, by no means delicately cultivated. She is of an agreeable presence, however; and though not to compare with Signora Assandri, may possibly turn out the best *seconda donna* we have had since she left us. The Signor has a fair baritone voice; of his skill we reserve ourselves to speak. He, too, would be a good stage figure, if he could restrain the superabundance of gesticulation, which is, by many degrees, too chargeable with the activity of his sprightly countryman, Harlequin, to be either agreeable or effective in tragedy.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—*Third Concert.*—After having drawn out a programme for their Second Concert, not containing one familiar piece of music to satisfy the ears of such subscribers as receive novelty reluctantly, and thus inexpediently tried the patience of their audience—to say nothing of the too heavy weight laid upon the conductor for the night—the Directors illustrated their consistency in onward progress, by giving us, in their Third Concert, the two oldest of old symphonies—Mozart's 'Jupiter,' and Haydn's in c minor. Betwixt these, Weber's overture to 'Euryanthe' absolutely flashed out like a burst of fresh and brilliant poetry. Again, M. Wolff, whose performance, rumour declares, had been declined at the first Concert, because he wished to introduce a composition of his own,—and to replace whom M. de Loffre was brought from the Shilling Concerts,—was permitted to play his concerto on

Monday. By this unmeaning vacillation, not only was the excellence of the first Concert impaired, as we remarked at the time—but we were hindered at the third from hearing a magnificent work—Herr David's new concerto, which must now be deferred, owing to the engagement of M. Vieuxtemps, for the fourth Concert. The Beethoven Quintett in the second act, too, was a thorough mistake:—no ears can contract themselves to cabinet works of any scale, after two hours of grand orchestral playing. It is necessary to mention these things one by one, as justifying our protests against the no-system pursued by the Directors, because the latter, it is understood, represent themselves as aggrieved and harassed by a wholesale and indiscriminating disparagement. Once more, and "for the last time of asking," we must repeat that days of "hand-to-mouth" management are passed and gone; and without some better exercise of justice, discernment, and foresight than has hitherto been displayed, the pride of British instrumentalists must perish irrevocably and for ever! The vocal music was very heavy. A sextett from Crotch's 'Palestine,' and a quintett from Spohr's 'Zemire und Azor,' paired off in dulness. Nor were the two pieces from Meyerbeer's 'Crociato' either suited to the English singers by whom they were given, or fair specimens of their master. In the first, 'O cielo clemente,' all Rossini's most mannered forms are employed, without one of his fresh and happy melodic ideas: in the second, 'Giovinetto Cavalier,' the repetition, which may be pretty on the stage, becomes in the orchestra as tiresome as the drone of a nursery song. Meyerbeer should be heard in his French operas; or, if in his Italian music, through Italian singers. After these much called for strictures, it gives us pleasure to praise M. Wolff's violin concerto, as a delicate and brilliant piece of playing. Though still, at times, uncertain in his tone, he has gained much execution, and that better quality, expression, since he was last heard in England. Mr. Cooke led, Mr. Potter conducted, this Concert. Throughout the evening the band was correct, but coarse.

PROFESSIONAL CHORAL SOCIETY.—This society, originating in the desire of our London chorus singers systematically to give themselves that training which has been hitherto but accidental and scanty, has our very best wishes. In the multiplication of such institutions is to be anticipated a great advance for English music: a complete overthrow of the "star" system, and a perfecting, in our performances, of all those links and subordinate parts, which, though not the most showy, are not the least important portions of every extended work. We look, too, for the disinterment and repetition of those master-pieces of composition, which at present we never, or too seldom hear. Haydn's 'Seasons' was well chosen for a first concert: as combining, in no ordinary degree, soundness and popularity of style: as unhectored, because, on the one hand, rejected by all managers of oratorios and festivals as too secular, while it is still on too grand a scale to be producible without much previous rehearsal, which has been unattainable at our concerts. On the whole, the choruses went very well—the *sopranos* were clear and forcible, devoid of that shrillness which is the besetting sin of *sopranos*, and of which our admirable guests, the Germans, are not utterly guiltless. The basses too, pleased us as giving out a peculiarly good body of tone: and the united four voices, as attempting gradations of light and shade, for which, as graces beyond the reach of the generality of our choral bodies, we have so long asked in vain—even at the Ancient Concerts. As regards the music performed, it contains matter for a long and separate criticism: in its freshness so admirable, though almost the last work of a veteran composer!—in its effects so new, even at this time present, when the majority of musicians are contented if they can get up an effect, relinquishing *idea* as a grace past their attainment. The art of painting by sounds could, by no possibility, be carried further, without degenerating into a questionable trickery. On these three characteristics for text (and they are not the only ones belonging to this kind of *Cantatas*) a long homily could be delivered, were time and space conformable: it must be reserved, however, for some future occasion. Professor Taylor's new version of the words, which was the one

employed, disappoints us. Thomson has been taken for ground-work, and inwrought with fragments from the Psalter and the hymn-book; here and there, too, with lines, more unmusical in cadence and more vague and incorrect in language, than ought to have been admitted into an improved version. The singer, for instance, is obliged, positively, to avoid clearness and precision of delivery, when he is given such an assortment of sibilants as—

Shrink beneath the scorching touch
to enunciate: and there is something to lament even in the language of the old version, when we find for rhyme's sake such a looseness of descriptive expression as—

His evening song the cricket trolls.

The solo singers of the evening were Miss Birch, Miss Woodyatt, Messrs. Bennett and Horncastle, Phillips and Streton.

MISCELLANEA

Aurora Borealis.—On the evening of last Monday (the 22nd of March) there was a very beautiful display of the Aurora Borealis in this locality; and as some of the phenomena, as seen by others at a distance from this, would afford excellent data for determining the height of that meteor above the surface of the earth, I hasten to send you an account of it. It rained very heavily all the early part of Monday the 22nd, with a S.E. wind, rather high, but not stormy. About 10 o'clock, a.m., the wind became variable, and our factory chimneys at one time showing that it came from the N.W., then in a few minutes from the S.E., and occasionally part of it, as it rose, moving in our direction, while higher portions were moving in a very different, and sometimes almost opposite. It did not at this time rain so heavily as before or after, but it continued to rain, without intermission, until after 1 p.m. Soon after this hour the clouds grew lighter, and at length broke. The rain ceased, and the sun shone in a pretty clear sky. The upper cirrocumulus clouds had at this time (about 3 p.m.) a very slow motion from the S.W.; the lower clouds (scattered patches of bright cumulus) from the S.W., and much more rapidly. The evening was fine, dry, and clear, but it felt very cold. At 35 minutes after 8 p.m. (mean time), I happened to go out of doors, and saw a splendid well-defined arch of light shining across the sky, from W. by S. to E. by N. It was then (by estimation) about 2° or 3° broad, and the exact centre of its eastern part passed over Arcturus (in Bootes), while the centre of the western branch passed exactly over an Orionis, the middle portion of the arch passing over the stars γ , ϵ , ζ , η , of the Lion. The arch extended to the east beyond Arcturus, falling down towards the horizon with a breadth diminishing nearly to a fine point: but on the west, though it extended beyond Orion, yet its termination was by no means so well defined. At this time the edges of the arch were pretty sharp, and quite regular in their curvature throughout the entire extent, at least of the portion between the two bright stars. At 41 minutes past 8 it was more faint, particularly in the western branch, but still passed over the same stars; having, however, visibly shifted its position slightly towards the south, Arcturus and an Orionis being no longer exactly in the middle, but somewhat nearer the north edge of the arch than before. At 43 minutes past 8 it was very faint, except in its extreme eastern part; the northern edge now just touching a Bootis, while the western branch had, as well as I could judge, slightly passed an Orionis, leaving it outside the arch on the north edge, as if the western branch was moving farther south than the eastern. At 45 minutes past 8 the arch had disappeared, and I went into the friend's house, to see whom I had come out. I remained there about 10 or 12 minutes, and when I came out the arch had again made its appearance; but it was now manifestly disjointed a little to the east of where it crossed the meridian; the eastern and western branches being now portions of different curves, and even overlapping a little at their junction; the eastern branch sharper, narrower, and slightly brighter, the western branch broader and fainter, and not quite so short in its outline. The east limb now passed clear of Arcturus to the south, and the west limb to the south of an Orionis, and even rather south of the three stars in the sword of Orion, but so as to embrace them; but at this part it was not so distinct. At this time there was a broad η or auroral arch, on the north, pretty well defined at its southern edge, and forming a very regular bow, but I could not see distinctly any of the stars among which it passed. It passed perhaps 10° to the north of Jupiter at its western part, and also something to the north of the Pleiades, I think. At times flashes of auroral beams shot faintly up towards the zenith from this. At 7 minutes past 9 p.m. the first arch which I have described above was again a well-defined arch, the upper or northern edge on the east passed lying over η Bootis, and the arch covering the three stars of Bootes of which η is one, the western part passing pretty centrally over η Orionis. The arch continued for some time after this, but was constantly growing fainter; and it was difficult to define exactly the stars over which it passed. The north was now bright with auroral light diffused; and at times bright patches, radiating flashes towards the zenith. The deep black clouds, which so constantly accompany the aurora, also gathered in patches from time to time, chiefly in the N.E. It felt very cold, but a thermometer, freely exposed, only fell to 71° and 71° 75°. At 11 p.m. all signs of cloud to the N.W., with very faint diffused auroral light between them. About 1 o'clock (after midnight) the sky was overcast with clouds. I have since learned that this arch was observed fully one hour before I saw it: also, a person who had been travelling from Antrim, saw it when five or

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six miles from Belfast, towards the north. Had this person noted the hour, and any remarkable stars through which it appeared to pass, we should have had pretty good data for calculating the height. I conceived that I saw the stars of the Lion, through this arch, more distinctly than I did immediately after it had disappeared: this feeling impressed itself on me at and after the two separate appearances of the arch.—I am, &c., JOHN SEVELLY.

Discovery of an Island off the Cape of Good Hope.—Captain Courtois, commanding the ship *Adolphe*, arrived at Nantes, from Bourbon, gives the following particulars relative to the position of an island, observed during the voyage—and not hitherto laid down in the charts.—“On the 15th October, a sailor at the mast-head, called to him that he fancied there was land in sight, a fact which seemed strange, since on the preceding day, we had attained a more southerly latitude than that of the *Cap des Aiguilles*, in whose direction we were. Having, however, made a very attentive observation, we were perfectly satisfied of the presence of land.—We had, then, the Cape bearing W. $\frac{1}{2}$ N.W., and were sailing with a wind from the S.S.E. The island seemed to run E.S.E. and W.N.W., at a distance of about eighteen miles. At seven we had it on the S.W., fifteen miles off. At eight it bore S.S.E. $\frac{1}{2}$ S., distant about twelve miles; at ten, we lost sight of it, in the east. This island seems formed by rocky heights, resting upon a smooth and steep base. We saw the sea break against it. Its greatest length appeared to be to between two and three miles—extending nearly S.E. and N.W. I regret that we were unable to approach it more nearly, but the wind would not allow of this. According to the point made at noon, and compared with the time of our last observation, the position of the island will be $36^{\circ} 5'$ south latitude, and $21^{\circ} 21'$ east longitude. Of the correctness of the latitude, I feel assured; but the longitude I give only approximately, as I had no chronometer.

Steam Engines in Belgium.—In December 1840, the number amounted to 1,100. The province of Liege contains one-third of them. Many of the engines exceed 100 horse power, several of them equal 300 horse power, and 150, 200, 250. The total quantity of charcoal and coal consumed by them is 1,800,000 quintals annually. Before the revolution in 1830 the consumption did not amount to one-sixth.

Booksellers' Provident Institution.—From the annual Report of the directors, we learn, with much pleasure, that this excellent institution is going on prosperously; that the funds now amount to upwards of 10,000*l.*; and that already the directors have been enabled to afford reasonable relief to deserving applicants. We observe, too, that the ladies are amongst the most liberal benefactors.—Mrs. Catherine Waugh and Mrs. Wallace having each given twenty guineas.

New South Wales.—The *Sydney Herald* publishes a letter, announcing the discovery of a very fine river, issuing at a point lying between the Clarence River and Moreton Bay. It is said to have thirty feet of water on the bar; and Mr. Scott, a gentleman who has explored it upwards for thirty miles, describes the country as extremely beautiful, and the river as having more cedar on its banks than all the hitherto discovered rivers of that country together.

Statistics of Temperance Societies in India.—A temperance society was established in the Cameronian regiment in 1837, at Fort William. The surgeon, Mr. Bell, reports most favourably of the results. The admissions into the hospital were—of the society, 1 in 25, of the rest of the regiment, 1 in 11. The deaths in the regimental hospital were—in 1837, 26, and in 1838, 22; whereas, for fourteen years previously, it had been 72, nearly, per annum. The consumption of spirits has diminished from 14,000 gallons, which was the amount consumed on the arrival of the regiment in India, to 2,516 gallons. Liver complaint has diminished from 111, 140, and 145, as in 1832-33-34, to 82 and 50, in 1838. An accompanying table shows that, by temperance, two-thirds of the sickness have been removed.—*British and Foreign Medical Review.*

Fossils.—We learn, that Mr. Gilbertson's valuable collection of fossils at Preston, Lancashire, has been secured to the nation, notwithstanding applications for them from Paris and Vienna. They will shortly be deposited in the British Museum.—*Manchester Guardian.*

The Tomb of the Great Captain. (From Dr. James Macaulay, Foreign Secretary of the Botanical Society, Edinburgh.)—Of the many historical monuments which are met with in the ancient city of Granada, one of the most interesting is the tomb of Gonsalvo of Cordova, the Great Captain. This tomb would in any other place have been a celebrated point of classic pilgrimage; but in a city containing the Alhambra and so many glorious remains of the Moslem empire in Europe, other objects of historic interest have been almost wholly overlooked by travellers. My attention was called to it by a note in my copy of Don Quixote, where it is said that “Gonsalvo toward the close of his life founded a monastery in the neighbourhood of Granada, and was buried in its church. His epitaph, which still remains there, is simple and grand; GONSALVO FERDINANDUS A CORDOBA, DUX MAGNUS HISPANIARUM, GALLORUM ET TURCORUM TERROR.” On making inquiry, I found that the tomb was not in the monastery he had founded, which was that of Cartuja, but in the chapel of the convent of San Geronimo. Of this magnificent edifice, the Nuncio Aldebrandini, while conversing in the Alhambra with Philip V., said that “he had seen nothing in Italy more great in architecture.” Separating from this what may be due to the flattering courtesy of a foreigner, there is yet in the remark a good eulogium of the work, and a high testimony to the merit of the architect, the famous Diego de Siloe. He it was who also built the cathedral of Granada, which in magnificence and taste exceeds all the cathedrals of Spain, and may be ranked with the finest edifices in Europe. He spent thirty years in the construction of the convent of San Geronimo; a truly noble piece of architecture, whether we regard the grandeur of the design or the beauty of the details, and a work worthy of the high name which Diego de Siloe bears in the history of art in Spain. The place is at present used as a barracks for soldiers. The remains of Gonsalvo are in a vault in front of the altar in the chapel. This part of the building is in a most desolate and dismantled state, every vestige of decoration and ornament having been destroyed, and the very woodwork of the chapel having been torn down for firewood. What a contrast from the former condition of the place, when historians relate that the shrine was famous for its riches and splendour, and the walls were covered with trophies taken from the enemies of Spain, among which were two hundred banners and two royal standards taken by the Great Captain! The short epitaph formerly referred to, I was unable to find; but upon one of the flat stones on the floor near the altar I observed the following inscription:—
Gonzali Fernandez de Cordoba,
qui propria virtute
Magni Ducis nomen
proprium sibi fecit,
Ossa,
perpetue tandem licet restituenda,
huic interea loculo condita sunt,
Gloria minime conspuita.

The epitaph appeared to me to be happily expressed, and reminded me of the brief and fine eulogium of Cervantes, introduced at the place where the innkeeper brings to the curate and barber his library of three books, two of which were condemned to the flames, but the third was worthy of immortal honour, being the history of Gonzalo Ferdinand, “el qual por sus muchas y grandes hazafias merecio ser llamado de todo el mundo Gran Capitan, renombre famoso y claro, y del solo merecido.” While our party were in the chapel, a number of the soldiers from the convent had followed us from curiosity, and wondered what we found to interest us in its bare and desolate aspect. In passing through Spain, the traveller at every step meets traces of its former glory and splendour, and cannot help contrasting these with the present degraded state of the country and people. The contrast came with new force to me while in the chapel of San Geronimo; recalling the brave veterans of the wars of Naples and Flanders, then the finest soldiers in Europe, and comparing them with the wretched troops of modern Spain, specimens of which were now gaping and jesting over the remains of the Great Captain.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The paper on the ‘Effect of Coloured Light on Plants,’ quoted, page 230, as from the *Journal of the Franklin Institute*, was written by Mr. Robert Hunt, of Falmouth.

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London: JAMES HOLMES, 4, Took's Court, Chancery Lane. Published every Saturday, at the ATHENÆUM OFFICE, 14, Wellington-street North, Strand, by JOHN FRANCIS; and sold by all Booksellers and News-vendors.—Agents: for SCOTLAND, Messrs. Bell & Bradburn, Edinburgh; and D. Campbell, Glasgow;—for IRELAND, J. Cumming, Dublin.